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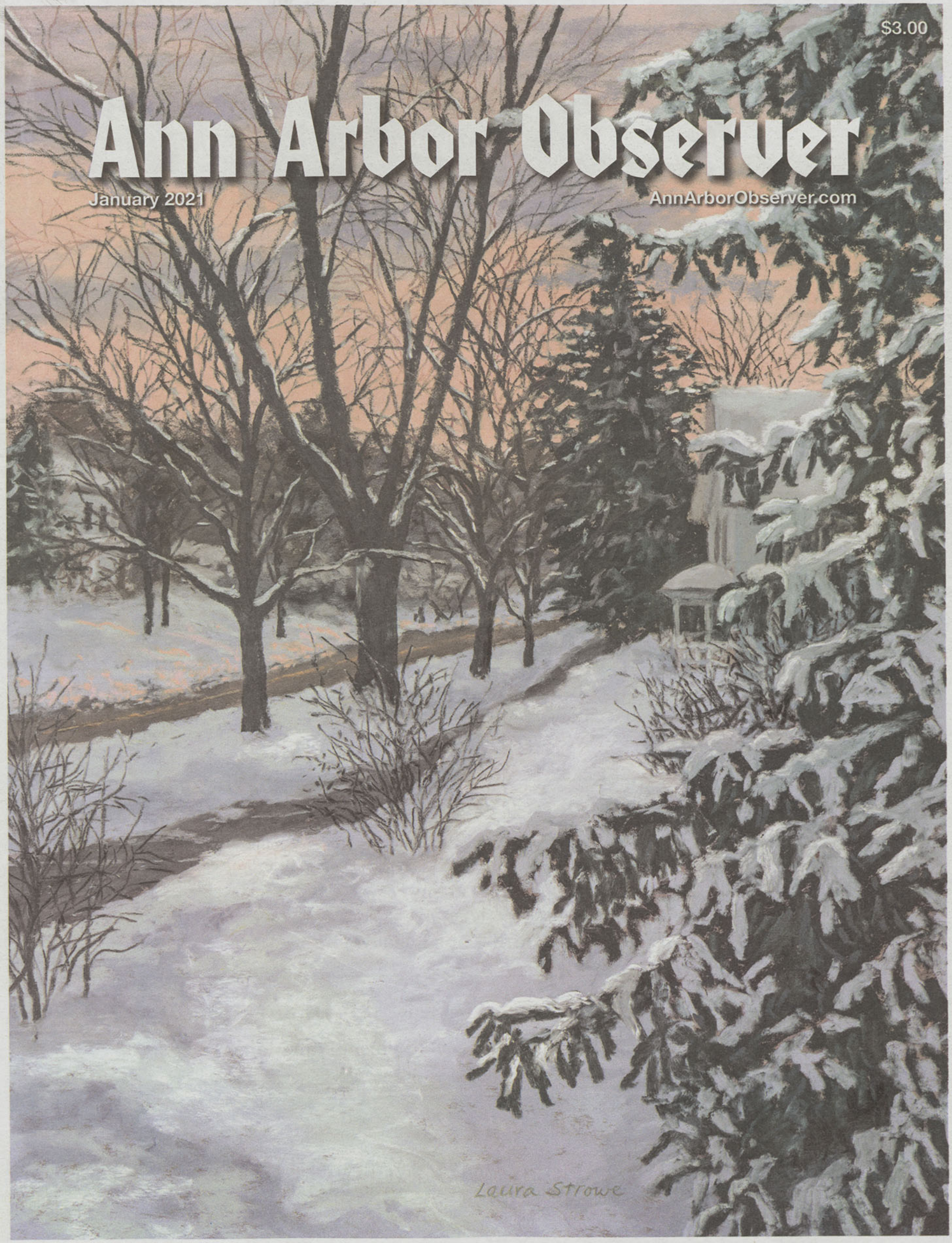

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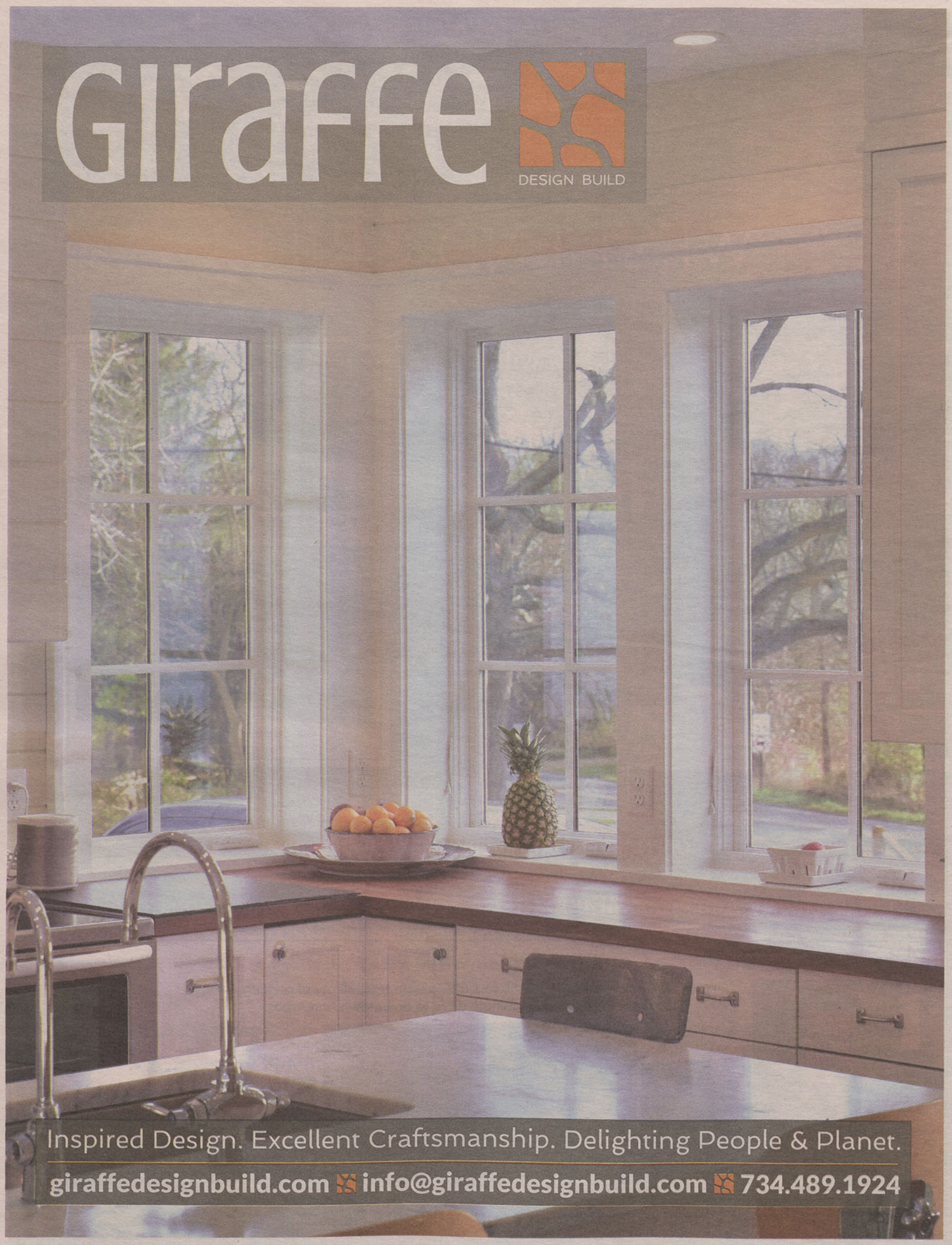
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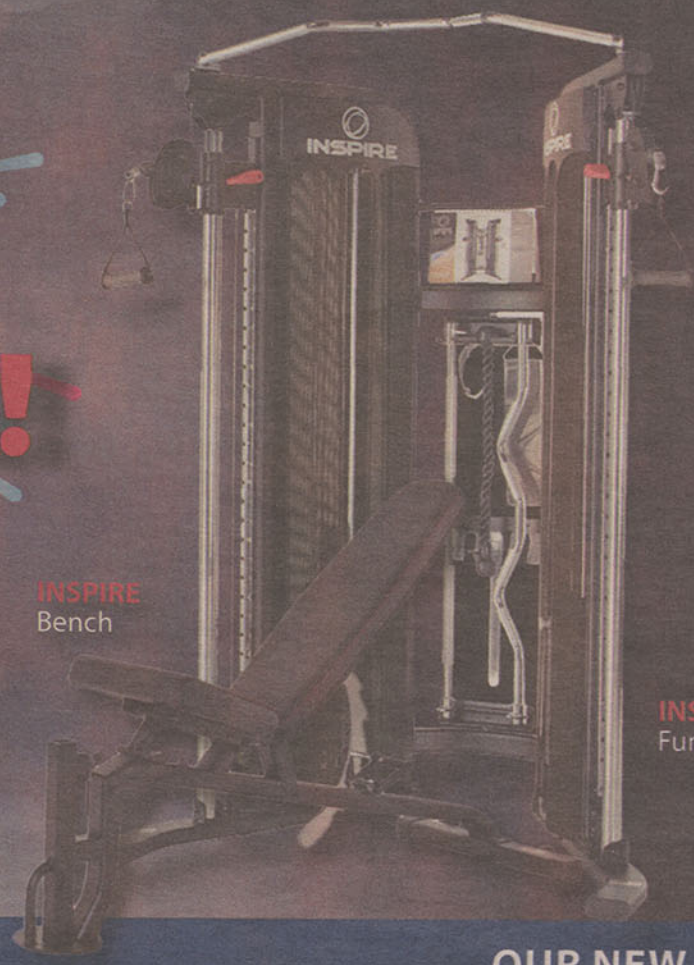

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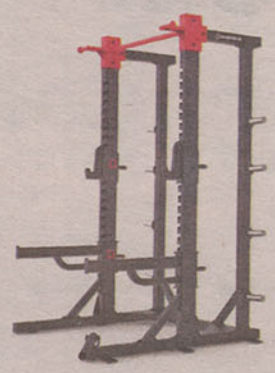

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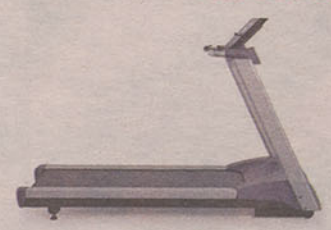

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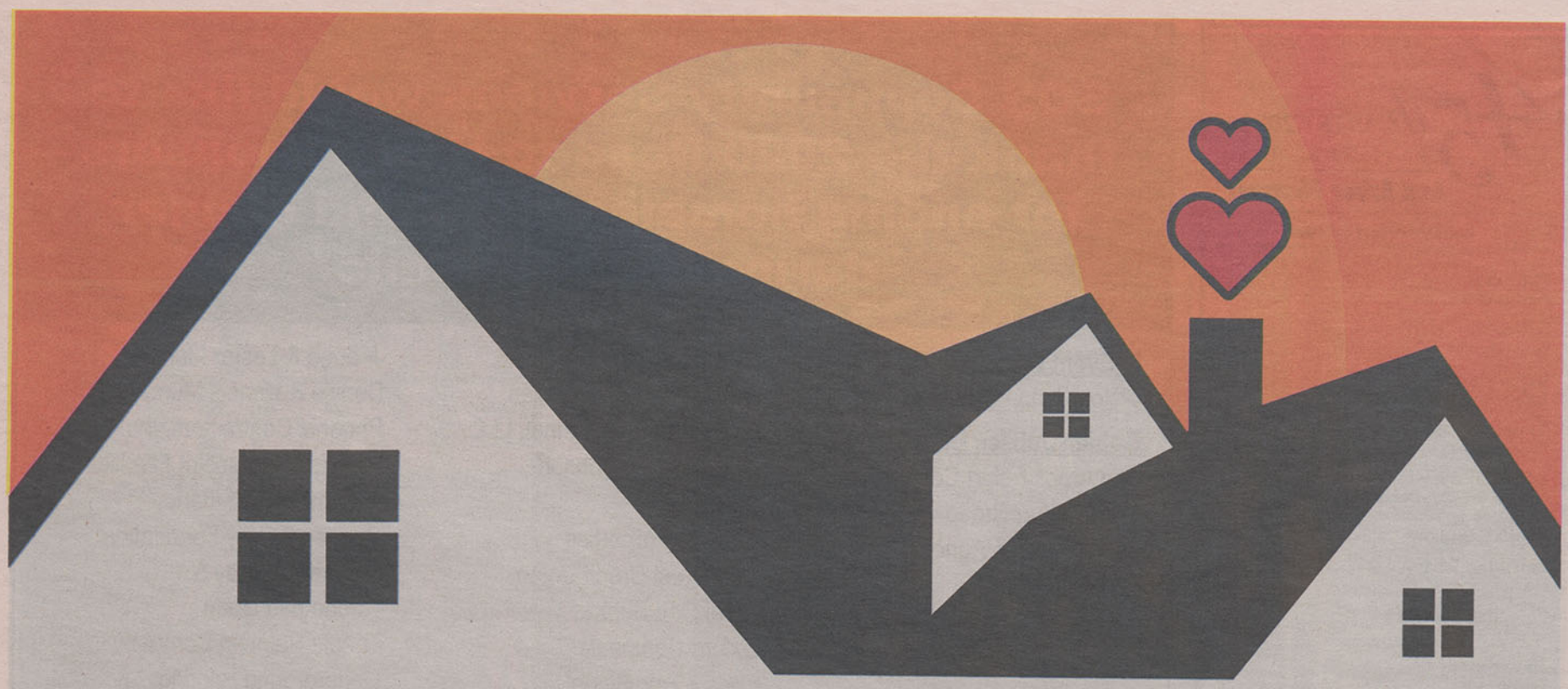

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AnnArborObserver

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Hot home market: Though Matt Dejanovich didn't sell a single home between March 23 and May 6, the Real Estate One agent says 2020 is his best year in thirty-two years as a Realtor. Even after the state lifted its pandemic-related prohibition on open houses in May, Dejanovich feared that with Covid-19 causing record unemployment, the market was headed for a downturn. Instead, buyers came out in droves.

With parents working from home and kids studying remotely, Dejanovich says, his clients "want as nice of a home as they can find to live their life the way we have to live our life these days." Some are looking for home offices, others for more square footage so that family members can spread out. "That's the driving force behind people wanting to move in a pandemic," he says. Though the recession has hit some industries hard, he adds, there are plenty of people with university or corporate jobs who remain comfortable financially.

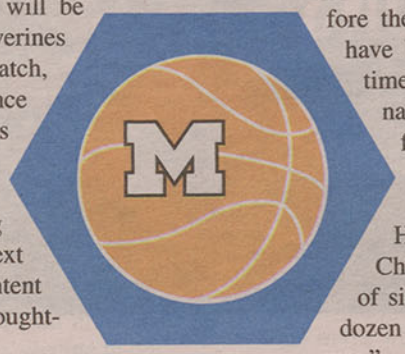
Reinhart Realtor Tracy Rose, the treasurer of the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors, says she's never been busier in thirty years. According to the board's December report, single-family home sales increased by 27.3 percent in November compared to the same time last year, while the average listing price was up by 9.4 percent.

Record low mortgage interest rates are also fueling the hot market. Rose says a buyer can now spend $30,000 more now for the same payment.

Dejanovich believes that the changed attitudes driven by Covid-19 will remain after the virus threat is gone. "People may appreciate their home more," he says, "because they had to spend so much time in it."

Winter sports: Michigan football's dreadful season eclipsed them, the school's winter sports got off to a promising start. In mid-December, Kim Barnes Arico's women's basketball team was undefeated. With junior Naz Hillmon averaging twenty-five points and more than nine rebounds per game, the women were rated #19 in the country.

Juwan Howard's men's team was also undefeated, though not as dominant—on the men's side, the Big Ten is the best basketball conference in the country this year, and the competition will be brutal. But the Wolverines are a pleasure to watch, playing with elegance and joy, unselfishness and passion. And Howard has recruited the best incoming class in the country next year, with letters of intent from six highly sought-after players.



Mel Pearson's hockey team started out 5–5, but that's with ten freshmen in the rotation. Michigan has six athletes who have been (or will be) drafted in the first round of the NHL, and four others who have been chosen later in the draft. This young team is likely to improve over the course of the year, and by year end, they should compete with anyone.

Saginaw's sprint: Zingerman's cofounder Paul Saginaw thought he had until the end of the year to open his namesake Las Vegas deli in the new $1 billion Circa Resort & Casino. But with Covid protocols limiting the number of people who could work on the complex's hotel tower, crews turned their attention to a five-story section of restaurants and meeting rooms where Saginaw's is located. That meant rewriting a schedule put in place more than three years ago to open by the end of October.

"The good news is that you can start taking revenue sooner," Saginaw says. "The bad news is that it's a lot of planning to pivot on."

Saginaw had already relocated to a Vegas condo. Now he called in an Ann Arbor infantry that included his wife Lori, Steve Mangigian, the managing partner of Zingerman's coffee and candy companies, Eve Aronoff from Frita Batidos, and longtime Zingerman's manager Ann Lofgren.

They pulled it off, but it was tight—tables and chairs arrived the day before the opening. And "I would have liked to have taken more time to train the staff," Saginaw says. English is not the first language for 90 percent of his employees, who largely come from Hispanic, Filipino, and Chinese backgrounds. "Out of sixty people, perhaps half a dozen knew what a matzoh ball was."

Saginaw estimates he worked about fifty-one hours non-stop, then went home to sleep. A few days later, he was diagnosed with Covid-19, which knocked him flat with fatigue and aches for much of November. He's since mostly recovered and is back at work.

"Every day we're tweaking this and tweaking that and going after that," he says. "We want to be great."

A wrong made right: It took fifty-nine years, but in November, Don Simons finally received the high school award he deserved.

Don "the Bomb" was a senior standout in football, basketball, and track at Ann Arbor High in 1961 and was in the running to win the "Most Athletic" student award and a coveted spot in the yearbook. But after the votes were tallied, another senior's name was announced instead.

Fast forward to 2007, when Simons met up with some of his football teammates at Weber's to honor their high school coach. The "Most Athletic" winner from 1961 was there too and revealed to Simons and others that a friend had rigged the voting in his favor.

"It was shocking," says Simons. "I know he felt real bad about it." The group got together a few more times in the following months, and the classmate died of cancer in 2008.

Near the start of the pandemic, Simons organized a monthly Zoom meeting for about a dozen fellow athletes, now in their late seventies. Mike Staebler, a three-sport teammate, says Simons also excelled in baseball, golf, wrestling, and swimming.

Recruited by Arizona State for football, Simons chose EMU instead, but a concussion soon ended his football career. He earned his special education degree and worked for more than thirty years as a physical education teacher at the former Maxey Boys Training School and at Boysville before retiring in 2006. A father of three, he lost his wife in 2004 and his only son, Don, a star Huron High football player—"my heart, my backbone, my spirit"—died in 2012 at age twenty-nine. Simons and friends endowed a scholarship in his name that pays sports participation fees for Huron High students who can't afford them.

"He's been through a lot," says Kelley Rea, who's part of the Zoom group. "I told the other guys, it's time we fixed this." So last fall, the friends surprised Simons with a very belated "Most Athletic" award over Zoom and shared some tributes.

Rea visited Simons' house to present a plaque in person. Simons posed for pictures next to family photos, holding up his frayed Don "the Bomb" jersey in one photo, with his worn high school football cleats by his side. ■

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Photo: Wendell Pierce and Charlie Robinson in *Some Old Black Man*

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Some Old Black Man

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Digital Launch Party: **Fri 1/15** at **ums.org**

For three weeks in October, the creative team for this theater production quarantined in Ann Arbor, rehearsing under strict coronavirus safety protocols. In November, the production was performed and filmed without an audience at the Jam Handy in Detroit. In *Some Old Black Man*, Wendell Pierce plays Calvin Jones, a handsome, hip, coolly intellectual African-American college professor who moves his 82-year-old ailing but independent blue-collar father (played by Charlie Robinson) from Greenwald, MS into his Harlem penthouse. *Some Old Black Man* explores the personal trauma of a family's history, as father and son try to rectify past hurts enabled in a racist world that has damaged their personal relationship in a work that is, by turns, incredibly funny and incredibly poignant.

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SCHEDULE

Part 1: **Jan 6**
New Orleans and the Birth of Jazz

Part 2: **Jan 13**
Chicago and the Spread of Jazz

Part 3: **Jan 20**
New York and the Big Bands

Part 4: **Jan 27**
Detroit Before Motown

Photo: Isata Kanneh-Mason and Sheku Kanneh-Mason

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Turning Point

As Covid-19 deaths climbed in December, the first vaccines reached frontline workers.

In the first two weeks of the month, the novel coronavirus killed twenty people in Washtenaw County—more than the total who died over four months last summer. The positivity rate—the percentage of people tested who are found to be infected—has quadrupled since then, to 9 percent.

With so many people sick, "trying to figure out where the cases are coming from and where people are being exposed is impossible," says Susan Ringler-Cerniglia, public information officer for the county health department. Without data, there was no way to know if the explosion in infections and deaths was the feared "bump" from Thanksgiving gatherings or simply the continued swelling of the virus's second wave.

Whatever the cause, hospitals saw more than 100 new Covid patients in those two weeks. As the Observer went to press, University Hospital had 101 Covid patients, twenty-seven of them in intensive care. But after more than doubling its ICU last spring, "we have ICU bed capacity available," emails Michigan Medicine spokesperson Mary Masson.

St. Joseph Mercy Hospital had 118 Covid patients, with eighteen in intensive care. Before the pandemic, St. Joe's ICU was staffed for forty-eight beds, but "our capacity is fluid and changes hour to hour as patients improve," says chief nursing officer Kathy Hoffman. "We are expanding and contracting as needed."

Staffing is a separate challenge. "Like most health care systems, Michigan Medicine is concerned about staffing shortages of healthcare workers," Masson emails. "We continue to carefully monitor our needs and encourage our staff to take precautions to avoid risk of exposure to COVID-19. We are considering all options for staffing, which has included reaching out to retired employees."

Hoffman says that through its corporate parent, Trinity Health, St. Joe's has tapped a regional staff pool "that allows us to shift resources. We shifted resources to Muskegon in the first surge, and now they are shifting to us."

STOCK PHOTO

Both University Hospital and St. Joe's got the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in mid-December and were hoping Moderna's would follow soon.

St. Joe's has also "reached out to retired staff for support work that goes along with responding to a surge," Hoffman says, particularly in its vaccination clinics. "We've had retired nurses reach out to us saying that [they would] love to help, and that's a great space that they can work in."

Both hospitals got their first deliveries of Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine in mid-December and were hoping Moderna's would follow soon. The county health department is getting vaccines to practitioners outside the big systems and to EMS workers; state and federal groups are handling nursing homes and long-term care facilities.

The vaccines were developed at unprecedented speed in a highly politicized environment. A recent state survey found that only about a third of Michigan residents want to get the shots as soon as they're available, with another third planning to get them later.

Medical professionals are more enthusiastic. St. Joe's spokesman Bobby Maldonado emails that "slots to receive the first batch of the vaccine are filling quickly." And county commissioner Katie Scott, a U-M nurse, estimates that 95 percent of her ICU colleagues are on board. "Several nurses I work with have gotten the jab already," she emails. "I'm jealous!"

Hoffman stresses that until vaccination is widespread, prevention is still the best defense against the virus. She urges everyone to "get their flu shot, wear masks, wash hands, and maintain social distancing."

The health care systems face one more stress: the federal government made advance purchases to accelerate the vaccines' development and has promised the shots will be free to the public. But it hasn't provided funds to distribute and administer them.

For now, says Hoffman, St. Joe's is focused on vaccinating its staff and patients. "We trust that we will be able to figure out the finances after the fact."

Shrinking Briarwood

The mall's owner plans to replace its vacant Sears store with office and residential space.

A coveted "anchor" tenant when the mall opened in 1973, the 185,000-square-foot department store was moribund for years before it finally closed in 2018. Back then, signs plastered over the former Sears entrance in Briarwood's east corner promised "more shopping, dining & entertainment" were in the works.

But owner Simon Property Group was already struggling to fill the space it had. It took an ownership stake in Sears to delay its closing, and in 2016 did the same with Aéropostale. Last year, it bought Forever 21 out of bankruptcy, and in November agreed to pay $1.75 billion for bankrupt JCPenney.

Short term, Simon's moves keep its malls looking good by preventing more vacancies. Long term, it's giving the company more control over their future: Sears had previously owned its own buildings, but as part of the 2016 deal, Simon gained control.

Now it's unveiled plans to demolish the Briarwood Sears. The company has made no formal announcement and did not return calls or emails—but a recent for-rent listing by Colliers International shows a four-story building on Sears' site.

"I've been talking to Simon Properties to redevelop Briarwood for this kind of use the past four or five years," says commercial real estate broker Jim Chaconas, who runs Colliers' Ann Arbor office. "Big tech and other large companies want to do business in our town, and downtown doesn't have the space, parking, or housing options they need."

"Developers are looking at how to repurpose old, underperforming mall space," says Neil Saunders, managing director and retail analyst at GlobalData Retail. "They put those plans on hold early in the pandemic, but now the dust is settling, and they're starting to look at those plans more seriously again."

Colliers is marketing the proposed LEED-certified building for research and development, office, or medical use. Rent is listed at $35 per square foot, with occupancy in 2023.

If it's successful, the building will be just the first step in Simon's post-Sears vision for Briarwood. The listing also

MARK BIALEK

Briarwood's owners seem to have concluded that the mall will never again need an anchor store at its east end—or its vast parking lot. They're floating a plan to replace Sears with a large office building, a small grocery, and housing

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shows a "proposed gourmet grocer" and a large block labeled "proposed residential."

"There's a view that mixed-use developments are a much more sustainable use of land than a retail-focused mall," says Saunders. "This is especially so if housing is included."

Ann Arbor–based Oxford Companies owns many properties nearby, including the landmark 777 Building. In a May 2019 Observer article, CEO Jeff Hauptman sketched a vision of a reimagined Briarwood as the center of a vibrant "suburban-urban" district.

This could be the beginning of that transformation—if Colliers can find tenants for the space. With the pandemic still out of control, Chaconas has yet to receive any serious inquiries.

Coffee Rebound

Michael McFall thought he would spend 2020 celebrating Biggby Coffee's twenty-fifth anniversary.

The coffee chain, then called Beaner's, launched with a single store on Grand River Avenue in East Lansing that was once an Arby's outlet. McFall joined in 1996 as a barista and became a partner in 1997.

In its first quarter-century, Biggby, which was rebranded in 2007, grew to 235 locations in eleven states. McFall, now its chief executive, hoped to add fifty more during its milestone year.

Instead, things ground to a halt for McFall, forty-eight, who lives in Ann Arbor and works out of an office at Liberty and Fourth Ave. (The company remains headquartered in East Lansing.)

There were days in March and April that he'd go out for downtown walks and run into no one.

"It was wild to be down here," he remembers.

COURTESY BIGGBY

McFall started as a barrista in East Lansing. Now he's running the growing chain from an office in downtown Ann Arbor.

During the early spring stay-at-home orders in the Midwest, thirty-six of Biggby's stores were closed, unable to sell even carryout coffees. Revenue plummeted by 40 percent.

But by Mother's Day, most of the company's franchises had reopened. While it lost eleven stores permanently, it opened nineteen new ones, winding up the year at 243. And despite the temporary halt at some locations, sales also rose. Through mid-December, Biggby's had recorded $145 million in year-to-date revenue, compared with $141 million for all of 2019.

"It's been a long twenty-five years," he says, "but things are really good."

McFall expects Biggby will open at least thirty more stores in the coming year and credits the rebound to two things. First, a Biggby is an inexpensive proposition as franchises go: the fee is $20,000, and franchisees can expect to spend another $250,000 building out their shops.

"The investment is relatively low, and the margin on a cup of coffee is very good," McFall says.

And despite the pandemic, customers kept showing up. "Coffee was something to give them a little slice of normal," McFall says. "They could drive home in their car with the latte sitting there as usual."

McFall, a Kalamazoo College grad who lives on the western edge of Ann Arbor with his wife Elizaveta and four children, was glad to see activity downtown pick up after the first wave of the pandemic passed.

Their favorite restaurants include Café Zola, where his wife worked as a teenager, and the Black Pearl on date nights. The kids, meanwhile, often cajole their parents into getting takeout from Slurping Turtle.

Despite his love for Ann Arbor, Biggby's four stores in the area face serious competition.

"Ann Arbor is tough for us. There's a lot of really, really good coffee in Ann Arbor," McFall says.

Biggby keeps the footprint of its stores deliberately small. Conventional ones have a counter where customers order drinks and pastries and a few seats, but some of its busiest locations are those with drive-thru service, which has become a major focus.

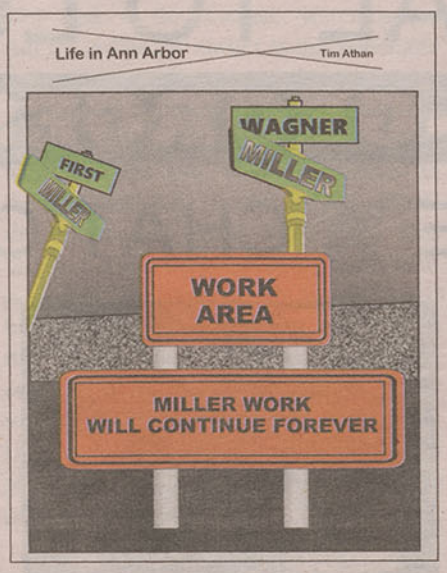
That drive-thru emphasis, and preference for smaller spaces, is why Biggby isn't interested in the empty Espresso Royale stores, McFall says. Back when Caribou Coffee closed twenty-two locations in metropolitan Detroit, Biggby's took only one, with size again an obstacle.

McFall says Biggby has developed a close relationship with its 180 owners. During March and April, it held daily online calls to share ideas for dealing with Covid. The plexiglass shields that Biggby installed in its stores were designed by a franchise owner in Owosso.

Last year, McFall outlined his management philosophy in a book, *Grind: A No-Bullshit Approach to Take Your Business from Concept to Cash Flow.* One aspect is looking after employees. Biggby has three full-time and two part-time "personal growth coaches" on staff, who meet with workers to learn their aspirations and advise them on ways to achieve them.

"We believe in individuals pursuing a life they love, not a life that someone else prescribes for them," McFall says. Even if that results in employees seeking other careers, he says, that's okay.

If people were satisfied with their time at the company, he says, "One, they remain loyal to Biggby. And two, they think of Biggby as an amazing company."



calls & letters

Random caption

"In the interview with Michael Steer about Random Games & Toys, in the photo Michael Steer is misidentified," Barbara Steer emailed. Our caption said "that he is on the left, but on the left is his business partner Garry Donner. Michael Steer is the man with less hair and he is on the right."

Barbara should know—Michael's her husband. Our apologies to both Steers and Donner.

question corner

Q. Has Pontiac Trail been secretly renamed? Most of the new street signs, especially near Northside Elementary, display "Pontiac St." rather than "Pontiac Tr."

A. Google shows the entire street as "Trail." Maps on the city's website label it "Street" south of Barton Dr. and "Trail" north of Barton.

Switcheroos like this often generate confusion—in this case, apparently, even at the city sign shop. Signs south of Barton display both "St." and "Tr."—sometimes within sight of one another.

Got a question? Email question@aaobserver.com.

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Pandemic Meetups

Outdoor parties keep friends together, at a distance.

Last night, in the dark, frigid cold, my "Saturday Night Live" friends gathered for our weekly pandemic meetup. We arranged our chairs in a large circle, making sure that we were at least six feet apart, wearing masks until we were safely settled. Our host made a pot of steaming hot, delicious soup that he served us in his driveway. Another friend contributed two giant buckets of popcorn from the Michigan Theater, we had cupcakes and samosas, and I brought freshly baked cornbread. We sat there for three hours in camp chairs. No one quite wanted to return to their homes, where they would once again face the walls they had been staring at since March.

We have been meeting every Saturday evening since April. The consistency would have been unthinkable before the pandemic—burdened by work obligations, travel, family, and other tasks of life, we struggled to find a date when we were all free. Even then, someone would often have to back out or leave early due to competing engagements.

For the past eight months, it has been a comforting fixture on my calendar. Every Saturday, someone has stepped up and offered to host. We have rotated from yard to deck to driveway, from downtown to neighborhoods to the countryside, surrounded by city lights or a bucolic field with deer in the distance, watching the sun set earlier and earlier as this pandemic persisted.

For our summer gatherings, we wore shorts, T-shirts, and sandals, drank chilled wine, and ate cold salads. We basked in the lingering sun, surrounded by blooming flowers and green, leafy trees. This fall was kind, with especially mild temperatures. But soon enough, the air turned brisk, leaves began to drop, and, as the days grew shorter, we donned pants and sweaters. We still sat for hours, sipping red wine, maybe ordering a pizza and munching on the weekly supply of popcorn. I started bringing an extra fleece and hat to protect against the evening chill.

As winter approached, we became increasingly anxious. How would we possibly tolerate the evenings as the temperatures plunged? We experimented with premeal hikes to get our blood moving. We watched movies, projected on a sheet hung from a porch to distract ourselves

DAWN TILBURY

Writer Amy Kuras (center, in blue) chills out. Loathe to unwrap from her cocoon, she asked a friend to bring her a cupcake.

while we shivered. On Halloween, we viewed episodes of "The Munsters" and ate leftover candy, since so few children were trick or treating. We tried dancing to music played from a computer speaker, but it was difficult to move gracefully in our bulky coats.

A couple of firepits have come out of storage, helping to mitigate the deep chill that seeps into our bones from sitting for hours without moving. Extension cords power electric blankets; we wear long underwear, wrap ourselves in sleeping bags, and sip from thermoses of hot tea and toddies. I found a heating pad in the basement. Last night, it sat on my lap, as I snuggled under my long down coat along with a wool blanket, sleeping bag, fleece hat, neck gaiter, ear muffs, and gloves. Loath to unwrap from my cocoon, I asked a friend to bring me a cupcake.

Our gatherings have ranged from BYO everything—drinks, snacks, and snack table—to potlucks featuring elaborate gourmet sandwiches grilled over a firepit and elegant cocktails. Each week has brought laughter and frustration, discussions about the pandemic, the health of our pets, our favorite Netflix series, and creative ways of protecting ourselves from the cold.

Periodically, our conversation turns to the future, pondering what practices from this pandemic will persist. Will people continue to work from home, attempt to grow vegetables, bake sourdough bread, spend time exercising outside, and connecting with friends over Zoom? Our Saturday evenings will undoubtedly fill with activities, and it will again be challenging to coordinate calendars. I hope though, that some version of our Saturday Night Live meetups persist—to retain the community that we built and to sit closer than six feet apart.

—Amy Kuras

Outdoor Education

Habitats, goats, and bird feeding

During the warm months of the pandemic, my husband and I took walks in different neighborhoods, often parking in the empty lots next to schools. We noticed that many had nature areas at the edge of their grounds. My interest piqued, I began looking into it and discovered that the Ann Arbor Public Schools were pathfinders in outdoor education—and that much of their success depended on citizen activists who saved and maintained these areas.

The outdoor education program started in 1959 as a result of lobbying by members of the Audubon Society. Bill Stapp, an Audubon member who was a teacher in the school system, was assigned to set up a program.

At first students took field trips to Eberwhite Woods, which had been donated to the school system by the U-M when encroaching housing development made it unsuitable for biological experiments. A second nature area, Pioneer Woods, was added in 1962 after a campaign by naturalists in the community. Stapp organized students and volunteers to create trails, restore brush piles for feeding stations and dens, clean two ponds, and clear out trash. In 1991, Pioneer biology teacher John Russell, a passionate defender of the environment, did a prairie restoration on the southeast side of the school. He did a controlled burn then planted prairie grasses and wildflowers.

Citizens helped save two more natural areas in 1964. When a bulldozer showed up to clear the understory in the woods next to Haisley School, a neighbor ran out to stop the work. Haisley principal Louise Ritsema was called to the site, and the woods she saved are now named for her. A similar showdown happened at Hollywood Park, next to Abbot School.

When Thurston School was built a few years later, neighbors created a nature area there, which they have maintained ever since. This year, when they were unable to have a safe work day because of the pandemic, outside contractors were brought in: a group of goats. After the goats ate most of the weeds, the job was finished with a controlled burn.

Stapp left after four years to teach at U-M but kept his passionate advocacy for outdoor education. His successor, Bill Browning, stayed on the job for thirty years and then spent twenty years of his retirement working as a volunteer. One of Browning's programs, bird feeding at Kensington Metropark, was my children's favorite activity. One day when Josh was in first grade, he came home excited about that trip and suggested we take three-year-old Leah there. It had been a long winter, so the birds flew in a steady stream, scooping down to take the birdseed, which caused Josh and Leah to laugh with joy.

COERT AMBROSINO

Pre-pandemic, AAPS outdoor education volunteer Tom Jameson led a winter survival demonstration at Freeman Environmental Education Center.

The country's growing environmental consciousness culminated in the first Earth Day in April, 1970. Russell was one of the main organizers of a teach-in at U-M which got national attention. By the end of the year, the EPA had been founded and much pathfinding environmental legislation passed.

Also that year, the twenty-five-acre Mitchell-Scarlett woods was added to the list of nature areas. When neighbors learned that the school board was thinking of building a high school there, they waged a campaign to save the woods and raised money to dredge a pond. On our visit last summer, many ducks were happily swimming with their babies.

Dave Szczygiel, director of the program since 1997, added programs on gypsy moths and global warming and hands-on research activities such as having third-graders take pond samples to see how salamanders live. Every student in the school system gets to go on a field trip every year.

In 2019, the district doubled its outdoor education staff by hiring a second person. In addition to helping with field trips, Coert Ambrosino is working with Szczygiel to create an Outdoor Education Center at the former Freeman School in Dixboro. Skyline High school students have surveyed the plants and trees on the forty-acre site. Once the pandemic is over, Szczygiel and Ambrosino have ambitious plans for forest and prairie restoration, Project Grow gardens, composting, and stormwater retention. The former school itself will be used as a lab.

While we wait out the pandemic, we're seeing more people visiting Eberwhite Woods. And when spring comes, we look forward to seeing wildflower enthusiasts making their annual pilgrimages to see the hillside filled with trilliums.

—Grace Shackman

There is no Observer Crime Map this month—due to technical difficulties, data was not available at press time. Both November and December crimes will be included in next month's map.

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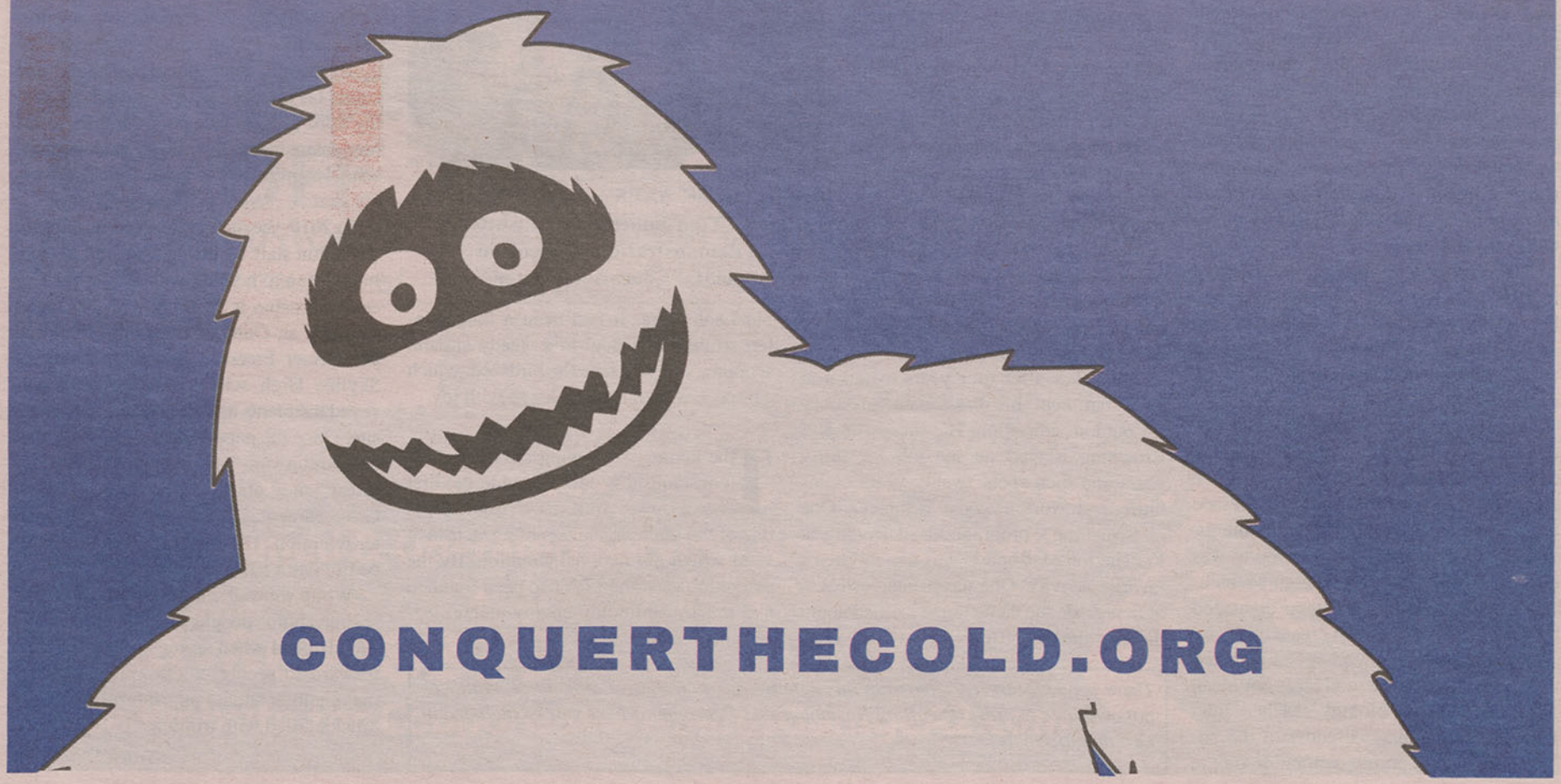

CONQUERTHECOLD.ORG

Diane Winner

Financial advisor, weight-lifting champion

SHERMAN EDWARDS MOMENTS IN TIME

"I have no idea why I screamed—it's so funny!" Winner says now. The deadlift set another record, and confirmed Winner as one of the world's great women powerlifters.

When Diane Winner, fifty-two, prepared to deadlift 360 pounds at the World Powerlifting Congress this past October, she was facing more weight than she'd ever lifted before. But she was having a good day. She'd already benched 209 pounds and squatted 286 pounds, setting world records for her age and weight in both events.

Staring at the barbell on the floor, she shook her hands and fingers rapidly and blew fast breaths out puffed cheeks. Then she bent her body at the waist, bent her knees slightly, grabbed the bar with both hands, and without hesitation, straightened back up, bringing the 360 pounds with her. As she stood fully upright, she let out a scream, and the crowd erupted in cheers and applause.

"I have no idea why I screamed—it's so funny!" Winner says now. The deadlift set another record, and though this was only her third competition ever, it confirmed Winner as one of the world's great women powerlifters.

A vice president with Bank of Ann Arbor, Winner lifts weights to manage the stress of a busy life and the effects of polycystic ovary syndrome, a hormonal disorder that causes insulin resistance and weight gain. "I've always been super active," says Winner, "but I'm just not lean."

She began working out in her teenage years in Westland and continued a rigorous fitness routine while a student at EMU. She worked out at her local gym and took aerobics classes, but weight training was limited to dumbbells in exercise classes. "Women did not lift weights in the gym," Winner remembers.

She met her husband, Wendell Winner, at EMU when they both showed up late for an 8 a.m. class and found themselves locked out. They've now been together thirty-two years. While Wendell worked at the Ford Rouge plant, Winner raised their daughter Cassandra and son Chad, and then worked her way up the finance ladder. She joined Bank of Ann Arbor in 2013.

For her fortieth birthday, Winner gave herself the gift of a personal trainer, thinking she would be paired with a "cute, unthreatening girl" she'd seen around the gym. But that girl left her job, and Winner was instead assigned to "the scary guy" with biceps like logs and tattoos snaking down his arms: Shaun Davis. Davis introduced Winner to barbells and powerlifting and is still her coach to this day. "He told me I could do this," she says, "and I started to believe him."

Winner liked that the weight-lifting room was the one place in the gym where body size didn't matter. "In weight lifting, the other people look at your accomplishments, not your appearance," she says. "Over the years, Davis gradually added more weight, and I could lift it."

But Winner avoided competing. "I didn't want people to know what I was doing," she says. She still had body image issues and a lingering sense that weight lifting was a weird thing for a woman to do.

That changed three years ago. Cassandra, then twenty-four, had just completed a lengthy treatment regimen for Burkitt lymphoma. With the cancer in remission, mother and daughter often worked out together. One day after watching her mother bench, Cassandra said, "You should compete."

"I can't really put it into words," Winner says, "but I did it for her. She was working on getting herself back to being physically strong, and I wanted to show her what women can do."

After years of feeling self-conscious, Winner decided to just get over it. She created an Instagram account and began posting pictures and videos of herself in the gym. "It's kinda weird to look at yourself working out," she says. "It was bizarre for me at first. But now I'm proud of myself." Comments confirmed that women found her posts empowering.

At her first meet—a 2018 state competition—Winner signed up for the bench event. She set a new record and realized, "Oh, not everyone can do this."

After a successful 2019 national competition doing bench and squat, Winner was all set to compete in nationals in Myrtle Beach in April 2020 when it was canceled because of the pandemic. Though the gyms were closed, her basement workout space allowed her to keep training, and when the World Powerlifting Congress was confirmed for October in Lombard, Illinois, Winner decided to go. She arrived intent on doing all three events. "I wanted *all* the records."

Although steroids and other performance-enhancing substances are not banned from the powerlifting sport, Winner says, "I don't take anything except a multivitamin." She also competes "raw," as opposed to "equipped," which means she eschews assistive gear like knee wraps or body-hugging suits. The only equipment she wore to compete that day was a belt to protect her lower back and wraps to keep her wrists straight. (She didn't wear a mask while lifting, but coaches and judges were masked and attendance was limited; as far as she knows, no cases of Covid were traced to the competition.)

For each event, Winner lifted more than she had ever lifted before. The total weight she lifted in the three events made her the No. 1 Masters 3 women's record holder of all time in the American Powerlifting Federation. Across all powerlifting federations, worldwide and all-time, she is ranked twenty-first in her class—and that includes women taking performance enhancers. "That is pretty amazing," Winner admits, "and I'm not done yet." Next time, she plans to sign up for the "tested" meet, so that her lifts will be recorded as achieved by a weight lifter who tested clean from performance-enhancing drugs.

Winner says some of her banking clients know about her weight lifting, and "they love it." They apparently like to joke: "My financial advisor is stronger than your financial advisor." And letting people in on her success has strengthened her sense of self. "It has given me my own confidence," she says. "This is my thing, my sport. It's who I am. I'm not lean, but I have strength."

—Stephanie Kadel Taras

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by James Leonard

PASSIONATE PROSECUTOR

Eli Savit wants to send many fewer people to prison. Here's how he plans to do it.

"A punishment-oriented approach does not work," declares Eli Savit, who takes office this month as Washtenaw County's prosecuting attorney. "It has had devastating consequences for people, has led to tremendous racial inequities and socioeconomic inequities.

"My vision of justice is building a system that is truly rehabilitative and restorative," he continues—one "that promotes public safety by preventing future harm, and also one which takes stock of the individual circumstances that bring people into the criminal legal system."

Savit says he "started to think about the inequities and the unfairness of the justice system and the collateral consequences in earnest when I was an eighth-grade U.S. history teacher in New York City. I had kids there who were themselves up in the justice system, whose family members were dealing with substance abuse and were in and out of the jail, and the kids were in and out of school."

The Pioneer High and U-M law grad says he was encouraged to run against seven-term incumbent Brian Mackie by local activists. "They had been seeking somebody to run for prosecutor and change our system from the inside."

Michelle Alexander's 2010 book *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* focused his thinking. It "brilliantly lays out the harm that the criminal justice system has perpetuated," Savit says. "A felony conviction can impact your ability to get housing, to get jobs, to get public accommodations."

The Pioneer High and U-M law grad says he was encouraged to run against seven-term incumbent Brian Mackie by local activists. "They had been seeking somebody to run for prosecutor and change our system from the inside," he says. "For a very long time, folks had seen the devastating effects that our current criminal justice system has had on predominantly black communities."

They discussed "what had been going wrong in our justice system in Washtenaw County"—and how to "come up with a plan to change that."

After Savit launched his campaign, Mackie announced his retirement and threw his support to a former assistant. Savit, a onetime Pioneer basketball captain, charged ahead. Raising more than a quarter-million dollars and collecting endorsements from everybody from local politicians to Bernie Sanders and singer John Legend, he won more votes in August's Democratic primary than his two opponents combined. Running unopposed in November, he got more votes than Joe Biden and Kamala Harris.

Victoria Burton-Harris and Eli Savit both ran for prosecutor as reformers in last year's Democratic primary. Burton-Harris lost in Wayne County but Savit won in Washtenaw—so he hired her as his chief assistant.

He's already recruited a new chief assistant prosecutor: Victoria Burton-Harris, who ran for Wayne County prosecutor in the Democratic primary last summer and lost to sitting prosecutor Kym Worthy. "Victoria ran [on] a very similar platform as my own," Savit says. "It's great how much we complement each other working towards the same vision."

Now they just have to deliver on their plans.

Savit says the activists' core complaint was "the vast majority of people who were coming through the justice system—who were getting charged, receiving harsh and unforgiving sentences—were black people."

"There has never been any justice in this country for black people in the criminal legal system," says Burton-Harris, whose own critique of the criminal justice system stems from her "experience being a defense attorney and seeing it up close and personal." That's why "one of our first priorities is a racial equity project. We want to see if more black folks are being charged than white for the same exact conduct. We're going to be working with a statistician and researcher, and we're going to be analyzing the data from our cases.

"Right up there with the racial equity project is to divert more and deflect more," she continues. For most nonviolent crimes, "we're not going to charge you for a certain amount of time—nine, twelve months, whatever—and we want you to instead complete a program. And we want to get to the heart of the issue, the root cause of why you committed this crime. Do you need stable housing? Do you need a stable job? Do you need mental health treatment?"

For people who complete the deflection program successfully, Burton-Harris says, charges will be eliminated without jail time "so you didn't even have a temporary record. That is how you reduce mass incarceration."

Savit says his "biggest and most overarching" disagreement with Mackie was his predecessor's "formal and informal zero-tolerance policies for certain types of offenses." Burton-Harris emails some examples: "high blood alcohol content charges and operating motor vehicles while intoxicated 2nd degree cannot be reduced nor can gun offenses. Once a felony firearm is on the complaint, APAs [assistant prosecuting attorneys] cannot dismiss it."

"The problem with the zero-tolerance policies is that they prevent you from looking at the human stories that are at the center of every case," says Savit. "You need to treat every case with the dignity that it deserves. That's why we're getting rid of them."

They'll still be "treading very carefully on domestic violence cases. We know that there are specific issues that are particular to domestic violence, including the coercive control that a person that perpetuates domestic violence has over the survivor, [so] we are largely keeping, for the time being, the domestic violence protocols in place."

Renaming crime victims "survivors" is part of the change. "A victim is somebody that had something done to them," says Savit. "It's a more passive nomenclature." He sees them instead as "incredibly strong people, and the work they've done to report their crime, make it through whatever they've experienced, [is] active and admirable."

Savit also plans to review policies that put folks in jail for minor nonviolent offenses like possession of a controlled substance, passing a bad check, or driving with a suspended license.

"A significant percentage of the people who were jailed in Washtenaw County were picked up for driving with a suspended license," Savit says. "Think about the reason that one's license may be suspended in the first place. A lot of times it's because they weren't able to pay a traffic ticket. It's functionally a crime of poverty.

"You pick them up, you put them in jail. Maybe you're being held on bond, so that puts you deeper into debt," Savit continues. "You plead guilty because you're sort

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PASSIONATE PROSECUTOR

of desperate to get out of jail. You're sentenced to a term of probation. If you have a technical probation violation, you could be swept right back up into the system."

Savit doesn't "deny the fact that there are some people [who have] demonstrated they frankly need to be separated from the community for public safety's sake—murderers, first-degree rapists, child sexual abusers, and the like." But a typical offender, he says, "was at one point a child, probably at one point came in through our juvenile system. Our failure to adequately address those issues at the outset is likely a huge contributing factor.

Even chronic adult offenders, Savit and Burton-Harris believe, could have been diverted with early intervention. Where their predecessors saw career criminals, they see missed opportunities.

"My philosophy of justice is you need to be focused on the earlier points in that path, on the first time that a child comes through the juvenile justice system, or the first time that somebody [enters the] adult justice system for a minor offense when they are younger. And at that point, [we need to] do everything possible to nudge them off the path that they are on."

Doing that, he says, starts with better assessment of young offenders to "figure out what's going on in their lives. We should get a kid treatment, and we should get them help [rather than send them] to the juvenile detention center. The data shows us [incarceration] makes it significantly more likely that they are going to commit another crime when they are out."

Instead, he'll try mentorships. "One of the best interventions for kids is simply hooking them up with mentorship programs that engage their passions—give them an adult mentor that really cares about them. This is something that's really close to my heart because I started my career as a teacher."

Even chronic adult offenders, Savit and Burton-Harris believe, could have been diverted with early intervention. Where their predecessors saw career criminals, they see missed opportunities.

I asked Burton-Harris her thoughts on Victor Stephens, who was charged with armed robbery in November after allegedly threatening to kill a man trying to reclaim a stolen backpack.

It was far from his first offense: in 2004, Stephens was Exhibit A in a campaign to expand the county jail when he was arrested three times in a two-week period for breaking into cars. Released each time because the jail was too crowded, he was finally jailed only after he broke into the car of a deputy police chief who chased him down—and only then because the car was in a garage, and home invasion is a more serious offense.

"How about we find out what the hell is going on with him upstairs?" Burton-Harris responds. "Does he have a mental

SHRINKING THE JAIL

While the pandemic surges in jails and prisons across the country, the Washtenaw County jail has had no major outbreaks. One reason it's been so successful: it's holding many fewer people.

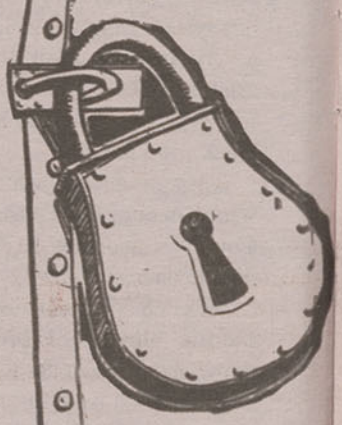
Sheriff Jerry Clayton recalls that in the summer of 2019, he had 365 prisoners. "This summer, leading up to the fall, we were around 135. In November, the count was "probably at about 181."

Many factors combined to shrink the jail population. Fewer people committed crimes during the spring lockdown, and police officers were given discretion to issue warnings instead of arresting people found driving with a suspended license. And judges sentenced fewer people to jail and lowered sentences or bonds for those already imprisoned. With fewer prisoners, strict separation, and social distancing, there have been only a handful of Covid-19 cases among the inmates and staff.

Asked if the jail population will go back up after the pandemic, Clayton laughs. "Oh, God, no, I hope not. If we demonstrate an ability to keep that population low and still create a safe community, we should be committed to continuing to do that."

Jail, he says, is no place for "people with low-level offenses and people with mental health and substance-use disorder situations." His "strategic objective is to not only reduce the jail population, but cut those people out of the system" entirely.

—*J.L.*



health issue, a drug problem, an alcohol problem? What is it? There's something, because folks like you and I are not just breaking into garages.

"Let's find out what he's lacking to see if we can't team up with a community agency to give that to him," she continues, "to work through whatever issues that he may have so that we can stop seeing him. Because it's a waste of our taxpayers' dollars, it's a waste of our time, and it's certainly not in the best interest of community safety—because he keeps doing it!"

Stephens was back in the news in 2014, when he called the police to remove Aura Rosser from his west-side home. When Rosser advanced on the responding officers with a knife, one of them shot and killed her. After a state police investigation, Mackie concluded that the officer had acted in self-defense.

Savit won't offer an opinion on Mackie's decision but does say that keeping "that case in house in the Washtenaw County prosecutor's office was a mistake. The recommendations from groups nationally [is] that when there is an officer-involved case of violence or misconduct within a local jurisdiction, that local prosecutor needs to recuse themselves and seek the appointment of a special prosecutor."

But he won't revisit the case. "I'm candidly not sure what my hooks are because the charging decision was already made," he says. Changing it now "would take the appointment of a special prosecutor by the attorney general"—which he thinks would be unlikely.

Savit and Burton-Harris aren't alone in their efforts. "I'm grateful to be part of a national movement towards a more rehabilitative and more equitable prosecution," Savit says. "We've seen prosecutors and district attorneys get elected, and communities across the country that are committed to a lot of these same ideas." Cities as diverse as Los Angeles, Portland, Boston, and Philadelphia "have already put into place policies and procedures that we are learning from and we are going to be adopting here in Washtenaw County."

County commission chair Jason Morgan says he's "very supportive" of Savit's approach because it's "very focused on restorative justice and looking at ways to not just prosecute individuals in the community but to really find a way to rehabilitate them into our community and help them be productive members of society." And Savit says that judges are "not just open to change, they're working actively on doing it. We did a listening tour around the county with chief judge Carol Kuhnke of the Washtenaw County Trial Court, Pat Conlin of circuit court, who's taking over our criminal docket starting in 2021, as well as our chief public defender Delphia Simpson."

He doesn't expect miracles. But he says they'll know the changes are working if "fewer people ultimately come through the justice system—[and we have] less crime." ■

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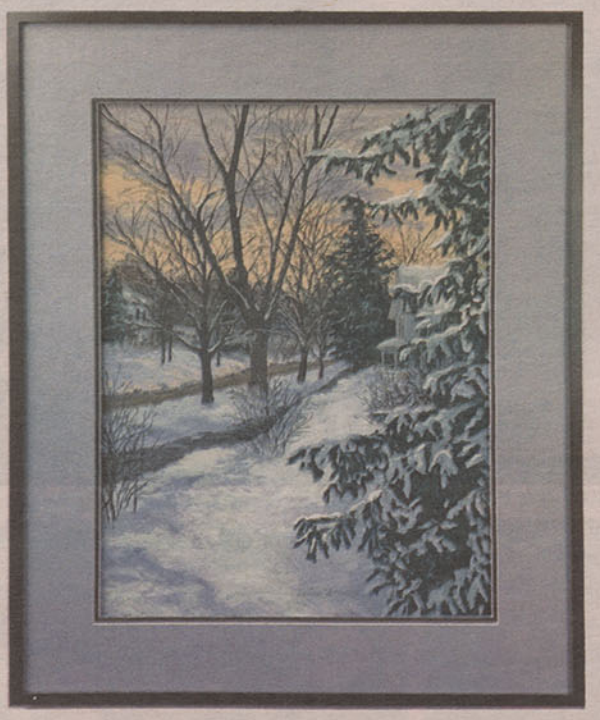

Now you can!

Artist Laura Strowe has donated her pastel painting "Snow on Broadway" to benefit the Observer and the Ann Arbor Art Center. Matted and framed by Karie Wagner Coron of Format Framing, it's now on sale through an online silent auction.

The painting is on display in the window of the A2AC's Gallery Shop at 117 E. Liberty through January 15, 2021. The winning bid will be income-tax deductible, less the work's fair market value of $750 (minimum bid).

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Thank you, Laura and Karie!

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NIGHTMARE at the Psych ER

My child needed help. With few options and rigid rules, getting it was a five-day ordeal.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

by Valerie Mates

I lived through a nightmare at the U-M Psychiatric Emergency Room. The pandemic made it worse, but didn't cause it. It happens to families there all the time.

My twelve-year-old son is aggressive. We're not sure if it's because he has a rare form of epilepsy, or because of the medications he takes to control it, but in October he was attacking family members ten to twenty times a day. So I brought him to the psych ER and asked for him to be admitted for help getting his behavior under control.

They took my son to a room in back and told me to wait in the waiting room. Parents could not visit their children, I was told, to protect the privacy of the other patients. But as long as he was in the ER, I was still legally responsible for him—so I couldn't leave the hospital building for more than two hours at a time.

I spent the next five days and nights waiting at the hospital. The psych ER's waiting room was usually too crowded to do social distancing, the soap dispenser had been removed from the bathroom, and sleep was nearly impossible.

A hospital social worker told me that other people could sleep in the waiting room and I could do it, too. But I've never been able to sleep in public places—not in planes, on buses, or in waiting rooms.

Since I wasn't allowed to see my son and I am easy to reach, each night I would slip out of the waiting room, go home, and try to sleep in my own bed. And every night, at two or three in the morning, I would get a phone call demanding that I return to the waiting room. If I didn't come back right away, they said, they would call Child Protective Services.

I never got more than about three hours of sleep a night while my son was in the psych ER. Once, when I came back after being called, I tried sitting near the hospital's front desk, where the staff had told me that it would be easier to sleep. But it wasn't. The room was fully lit, people were talking, and at 4 a.m. a loud floor-washing Zamboni drove through.

I don't think anybody ever intended for patients to spend five days in the psych ER waiting room. But, while the doctors agreed that my son needed to be hospitalized, no beds were available anyplace in the state.

This was not due to Covid. Long before the pandemic, Michigan had far more psychiatric patients who needed to be hospitalized than places to treat them, resulting in long waits for care.

According to an Mlive.com article last year, since the early 1990s the number of psychiatric beds in Michigan has fallen by more than half, to just 3,200. The head of the state's largest private provider explained that insurance pays a third as much for psychiatric hospitalization as it does for medical care, making it a "black hole into which you dump money."

The U-M has just three psychiatric beds for complicated adolescents like my son, and they were full. The most likely alternatives were located up to an hour away, and they were full, too. I was told that if a bed did become available there, my son would be transported in an ambulance, but I would need to follow in my car, check him into the new institution, and then drive another hour back home again—all while sleep-deprived.

Between the risks of Covid infection and falling asleep at the wheel, it felt like the rules were designed to kill parents, several times over.

Eventually, a space opened up in a U-M psychiatric ward and my son was admitted—he did not end up an hour away, after all. Once he was hospitalized, other patients' privacy was no longer an issue: I was able to visit him—and to sleep at home at night.

There is nothing unusual about the hurdles we jumped to get him there. Other parents have told me that they, too, have waited days before their child was admitted.

Unfortunately, not all families have the resources to do that. If family members cannot take time off work—or have other children at home, or have medical problems of their own—that child may never get care.

I know, because this was not the first time I'd tried to have my son admitted. The last time, several years ago, my other children were too young to be left alone at home. Unable to wait for a week in the ER, I gave up and brought my son home without getting the help that he needed. We continued to live with his violence for years.

Having to spend days in the waiting room is one way to limit the demand for psychiatric hospitalization. But it doesn't give priority to the children who need help the most—it gives priority to those whose parents are able to rearrange their lives to have someone on hand 24/7. This is not a reasonable way to ration health care!

Every night, at two or three in the morning, I would get a phone call demanding that I return to the waiting room. If I didn't come back right away, they said, they would call Child Protective Services.

Once he was admitted, my son was hospitalized for two weeks. They changed his medication, and for the moment his aggressive behavior is much less frequent. But he acclimates to some medications and they stop working, and he has had life-threatening reactions to others, so the current peace is not likely to last.

I worry that someday we will need to go back to the psych ER. And I dread that.

I filed a complaint with the hospital. My son's pediatrician also tried to get them to change their policies, so far without success. I wrote this article because I hope public attention will help.

Nobody should have to camp out for days to get a child the care they need. Parents need to be able to eat and sleep so that they can support their children.

The hospital needs a fairer way to ration psychiatric care—one that doesn't limit it to families that are privileged enough to be able to take extended time off. And the state needs more psychiatric facilities, so that in the future parents won't have to spend days and nights in waiting rooms, trying to sleep in chairs. ■

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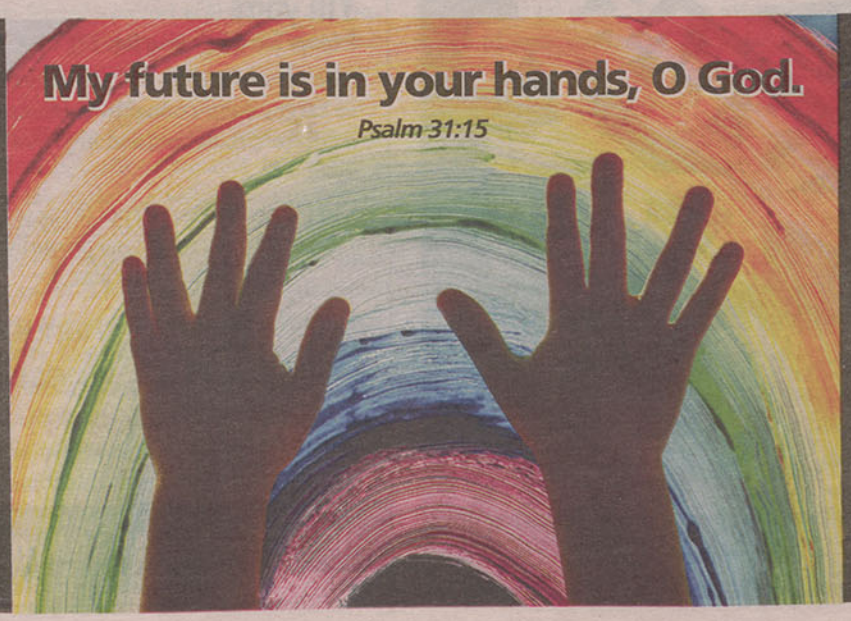

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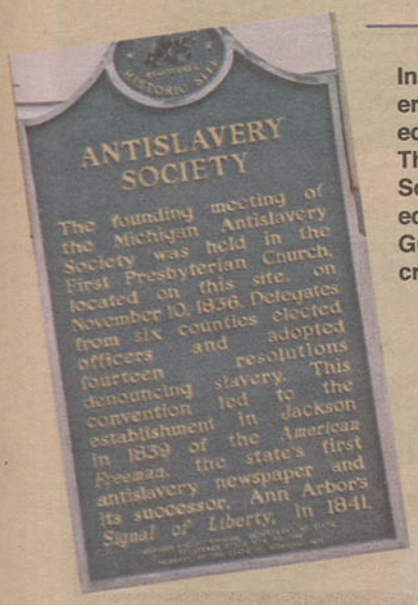
The SIGNAL of LIBERTY

From an office on Broadway, an abolitionist newspaper chronicled the struggle to end slavery.

by DAVE MCCORMICK


ANTISLAVERY SOCIETY
The founding meeting of the Michigan Antislavery Society was held in the First Presbyterian Church, located on this site, on November 10, 1836. Delegates from six counties elected officers and adopted fourteen resolutions denouncing slavery. This convention led to the establishment in Jackson in 1839 of the American Freeman, the state's first antislavery newspaper and its successor, Ann Arbor's Signal of Liberty, in 1841.

In 1841, the Liberty Party needed a newspaper. The Antislavery Society persuaded Ann Arborite Guy Beckley to create it.

Believing as we do that it is morally wrong to continue our fellow beings in involuntary servitude, it is with the utmost pleasure that we aid and assist them in their flight from southern kidnappers.

The Signal of Liberty, May 12, 1841

Long before the Civil War, opposition to slavery was a political force in Michigan. No sooner had Michigan become a state, in 1836, than the Michigan Antislavery Society was founded in Ann Arbor's First Presbyterian Church.

The society took the Michigan branch of the abolitionist Liberty Party under its wing and in 1840 endorsed James G. Birney for president. A former slaveholder, Birney had freed his own slaves and withstood mob attacks to publish an antislavery paper in Ohio.

AADL

Beckley's house on Pontiac St. is featured in local tours of Underground Railroad landmarks.

Though Birney got less than 1 percent of the vote nationally, some Liberty Party candidates were elected to local office. To strengthen their position, it was felt that a statewide newspaper was needed—something more substantial than the sporadically published *Michigan Freeman*. The Antislavery Society recruited Methodist preacher and Ann Arbor merchant Guy Beckley to found it.

Beckley's financial wherewithal made him a good fit to serve as publisher. Theodore Foster, a farmer and tanner in Scio Township whose father had been a senator from Rhode Island, had the necessary credentials to serve as the paper's editor.

The *Signal of Liberty* began publication in 1841. Printed above Beckley's brother's store on Broadway, it had an initial circulation of 500. By February the following year, subscriptions had almost doubled to 900, passing the *Michigan Freeman* at its peak. By the mid-1840s the circulation doubled again.

The paper's accounts of aiding escaped slaves on their way to Canada were probably firsthand. Identifying participants in the Underground Railroad is notoriously difficult, because aiding escaped slaves was a crime (Birney himself was convicted of it in Ohio in 1837). But an 1882 reminiscence by Nathan Thomas of Kalamazoo named Beckley and Foster as fellow "conductors."

The *Signal of Liberty* zealously shared news and opinions concerning the antislavery movement in Michigan and throughout the United States. An article entitled "Judicial Prejudice" deplored the sentencing in Washtenaw County of John Kading, a black man, to five years' imprisonment at hard labor for stealing items valued at no more than fifty cents. Meanwhile, a white man was sentenced to only three years for shooting a man and crippling him for life.

The *Signal* was not afraid to attack political heavyweights. Its April 10, 1846 edition relayed the tortures suffered by Lewis Richardson, a slave of Kentucky senator Henry Clay, who was subjected to 100 lashes after returning late from a visit to his enslaved wife, who lived three miles down the road at another plantation. Richardson recounted that during his nine years under Clay's thumb, he received "not a stitch of bed clothes" or even a hat to protect him from the sun. He was fed mostly meager amounts of coarse corn and bread. His reason for taking flight, without his wife, was that he deemed it impossible to physically survive another whipping.

In that time and place, the *Signal's* revulsion at slavery was by no means universal. For publishing testimonies such as Richardson's, the paper received many a written lambasting from pro-slavery publications. The *Detroit Free Press* sneered that the Ann Arbor paper had "taken up the Cudgels of the coon organ" and was "billing and cooing with abolitionism." The *Livingston Democrat* vowed to expose its "damnable principals … whenever and wherever" they appeared.

But opposition to slavery was growing. In 1844, when the Liberty Party again ran Birney for president, he got enough votes to swing several states from Henry Clay to James Polk. The following year, he ran for governor and received 7.8 percent of the vote, a strong showing for a third-party candidate.

In 1847 and 1848, Foster drew up a list of 1,267 Michigan subscribers. Close to 300 of them resided in Washtenaw County, which also provided more than half of the *Signal's* advertising. In terms of occupations, 60 percent were farmers, and 20 percent were artisans. Why? One theory is that these groups supported the abolition of slavery because they believed that their own hard work had brought them financial success and felt that nobody should barred from that same chance.

Male abolitionists generally favored gender-segregated branches, with women encouraged to direct their efforts to liberating female slaves. "Say not that it is man's business to destroy slavery," the *Signal* editorialized in 1845. "I know man ought to do it—he should have done it a long time ago, but he has been recreant to his duty. Now let woman speak, and it shall be done. You are aware of the extent of your influence. I have frequently observed that antislavery sentiments are much oftener cherished by females than by the other sex. Their sympathies for the oppressed are generally deeper and lasting; and were they sufficiently firm in their advocacy of man's 'inalienable rights,' the result would be most happy and beneficial. Much of the success that has hitherto attended the antislavery cause is owing to the efforts of woman. May we not hope that those efforts will be redoubled."

Apparently, women took this message to heart. The *Signal of Liberty* reported that during 1846 and 1847, a larger number of female antislavery societies materialized throughout Michigan. Nevertheless, under Foster's leadership, the paper afforded less space to women's antislavery works than to men's. While he often published the minutes of Washtenaw County's male abolitionist society meetings, he rarely hailed the endeavors of female antislavery societies, leaving little historical record of their efforts. And he ridiculed abolitionists who advocated for women's suffrage.

Foster eventually revised those views. By 1856, he made up his mind that women should be afforded the right to vote. He even went so far as to predict that "female suffrage will generally prevail in the United States" by the mid-twentieth century. He was not too far off—women didn't win the vote nationally until 1920.

The *Signal of Liberty* ceased publication in 1848. Beckley had died the previous year, taking with him the financial support on which the paper depended. The Liberty Party also folded.

But opposition to slavery continued to grow. After Clay won approval for the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, which required authorities in free states to assist in the return of escapees, the Michigan Legislature passed the Michigan Personal Freedom Act in 1855. Directly contradicting the federal law, it guaranteed anyone claimed as a fugitive slave "all the benefits of the writ of habeas corpus and of trial by jury." It made it illegal for Michigan sheriffs to detain accused fugitives and prohibited state or local jails from holding them. And it made it a crime punishable by up to five years in prison to "maliciously seize any free person entitled to freedom, with intent to have such person held in slavery."

CLICK ON DETROIT

A city historic display commemorates the paper that called Michigan abolitionists to political action.

In Jackson in 1854, Birney and other Liberty Party veterans helped found the Republican Party. When Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, the slave states seceded. The stage was set for the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation. ■

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Marketplace Changes

by Micheline Maynard

Ginger Deli Is Back

With banh mi, pho, and plans for a work space

For more than two years, **Ginger Deli's** canopied patio at Liberty and Division has stood empty. If passersby didn't know the Vietnamese spot had a takeout booth at University Hospital, they might have wondered what happened to it.

Wonder no more. Ginger Deli is back, this time in its own Liberty St. storefront a few blocks west. Owner Te Phan opened in December in the spot that was very briefly Former Vintage, and, for generations before, the Chelsea Flower Shop. He's making the Vietnamese noodle soup called *pho,* and *banh mi,* sandwiches with savory fillings on crusty French bread.

With dining rooms shut by the pandemic, you might think Phan had chosen the worst possible time to open. He wouldn't disagree. "No one in their crazy mind would open a restaurant now," he says.

But, he says, "We are trying to give people some hope. They see people closing and running away. We're running forward."

Growing up in Holland, Michigan, "I was the only black-haired kid in the whole school with all the blond-haired kids," Phan says, laughing.

Phan's life in the U.S. has been marked by a series of moves. Born in Vietnam, he emigrated with his family in 1983 to Holland, Michigan, when he was ten years old.

The move, arranged by his aunt, was sponsored by a local church. The Phans stood out from the rest of the community, known for its Dutch roots. "I was the only black-haired kid in the whole school with all the blond-haired kids," he says, laughing.

He attended Hope College for two years, where he studied classical piano performance, then transferred to what is now the Cleveland Institute of Art.

After graduation, he became an industrial designer at Ford, working on concept cars in a studio across from the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

About a decade later, Phan decided he wanted to "create my own canvas." He founded an events business then became an importer of products for hospitality clients, such as hotels and events companies.

He opened the original Ginger Deli in 2014, using recipes he learned from his mother. He added the hospital location in 2017, and when the lease expired on Liberty in 2018, he did not renew it, though the canopy was never removed (the corner is being eyed for redevelopment).

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"No one in his crazy right mind would open a restaurant now," admits Ginger Deli owner Te Phan. "We are trying to give people some hope."

When we talked to him in early December, Phan was making four types of banh mi—beef, chicken, vegetarian, and his signature pancetta, a marinated pork shoulder. They're served on a half baguette—which Phan bakes at the Washtenaw Food Hub's commercial kitchen on Whitmore Lake Rd.—and dressed with a mix of pickled carrots and daikon (an Asian radish), cilantro, cucumber, and a garlic aioli. By January he plans to add pho, made with either a rich beef-based broth, which he says takes forty hours to cook, or a vegetable broth.

For now, Ginger Deli is carryout only; patrons can pick up prepaid orders from a shelf at the front of the store. Phan hopes to add delivery and evening hours later, and—once indoor dining resumes—an in-house work space at the back of the restaurant.

Profits are not the goal. "Right now, it's just to make rent," he says. "We want to make our food really healthy and affordable, you know? That's been our philosophy from day one."

Ginger Deli (downtown location), 203 E. Liberty, (734) 786–1331. Mon.–Sat. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Closed Sun. gingerdeli.square.site

Aroma Arrives

Fast-casual Indian on W. Liberty

Krishna Nakka and Kiran Rampa first met as undergraduates in India studying computer science then went their separate ways, winding up in places like Singapore, Sydney, Silicon Valley, and New York City.

When Nakka met his wife, a graduate from Lawrence Tech in Southfield, he decided he liked Michigan, even though it was far colder than his home country. A food lover who had worked in New York City restaurants while earning a master's degree, he also began to explore opening an Indian restaurant.

When one came up for sale in Farmington Hills in 2017, he called Rampa, then working on the East Coast as a consultant, and invited him to partner in buying it.

Krishna Nakka and Kiran Rampa first met as undergraduates in India studying computer science then went their separate ways, winding up in places like Singapore, Sydney, Silicon Valley, and New York City.

"One day, I said, 'let's do it,'" Nakka recalls. "We're starting tomorrow."

They soon decided they wanted to have a place in Ann Arbor, too. In August, their opportunity arose when Satchel's BBQ decided to close its satellite location at Liberty and First St.

The men wrote a ten-year business plan, signed a lease, and opened **Aroma Indian Cuisine.**

While their original place offers table service and a full menu, they've adapted this one to the "fast-casual" trend, with a streamlined menu and counter service. All the meat is halal, and there are a number of vegan dishes.

For Ann Arbor, the owners also crafted a selection of Indo-Chinese dishes, featuring some of Aroma's fourteen dif-

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Make Takeout Fun with Miss Kim Meal Kits

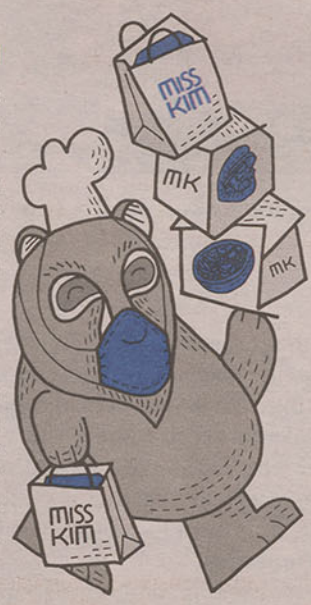
This just in! Miss Kim has launched a range of take-home meal kit offerings for readers to make in the comfort of their own homes this winter. Here's an exclusive look at what's on offer, straight from the source:

STREET STYLE TTEOKBOKKI

One of Miss Kim's most beloved specialties is now yours to create yourself! Each kit comes complete with your choice of seasonal vegetables or pork belly, gochujang sauce, rice cakes, and toppings such as scallions, sesame seeds, and sous vide eggs. Each kit includes written instructions and an emailed how-to video from Chef Ji Hye Kim herself.

BIBIMBOB

The base Bibimbob meal kit comes with two eggs, three banchan, sesame rice, sesame seeds, scallions, and gochujang sauce for two. Miss Kim invites you to "bulk out your bop" with a wide range of upgrades. Each kit includes written instructions and an emailed how-to video from Chef Ji Hye Kim herself.



KOREAN BBQ

Make Korean BBQ magic at home! Each BBQ kit includes all of the fixings you need—just add your favorite protein and veggies. Each kit includes written instructions and an emailed how-to video from Chef Ji Hye Kim herself.

STEAMED BUNS

Order Miss Kim's steamed buns to enjoy on your own timeline. The bun kit includes: 8 steamed buns, pork belly or mushrooms, ginger scallion sauce, hoisin sauce, sriracha mayo, and vegetable fixings.

Order at zcob.me/mk-mealkit
Use code FREETOPPING for a discount
Valid Jan. 1–31, 2021.

new year, new you—collection from local author

The Times book desk just came out with its top recommended books for 2021. Topping the list is "32 Lessons on Life and Leadership," a collection of pamphlets from local business author and Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzweig.

Ari's set of pamphlets will keep readers inspired and learning for a solid six months! This collection includes a copy of his latest pamphlet, "Humility: A Humble, Anarchistic Inquiry." Here's what Wayne Baker, Robert P. Thome Professor of Business Administration, and Faculty Director of the Center for Positive Organizations at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business, had to say about the new pamphlet:

> *In this deeply thoughtful piece, Ari Weinzweig takesus on a journey to explore the concept and practice of humility in the workplace and in life. A humble leader himself, he demonstrates by example that humility means recognizing, appreciating, and supporting the uniqueness of each individual. He shares 16 practices that support a humble workplace in which people thrive and the organization performs at the highest levels.*

order the collection or individual works at zingtrain.com or zingermanspress.com

warm up with next door café's hot cocoa mix

The Times winter beverage desk got the scoop on the story behind Zingerman's Next Door Café's hot cocoa mix. Zingerman's cocoa connoisseurs spent months formulating, blending, and testing Next Door Café's house blend of hot cocoa mix. Reina Telin, manager of Next Door Café shares:

> *We ordered just about every cocoa we could find—everything from the biggest to smallest chocolatier companies—and tried them all. The range of flavor profiles was huge. We found that we liked something in between an earthy, bold chocolate flavor and a little bit of fruitiness. We now use it to make all of the cocoa and mochas at Next Door Café. The mix of sweetness to bitter to earthy/fruity is just right.*

The result is a mix that's deep in flavor without being overwhelmingly rich—great for everyone in the family, we're told, especially kids in après-sled mode. Readers can enjoy a cup of this specially-crafted cocoa by ordering a beverage to-go at Next Door Café on Detroit Street, or by ordering your very own canister of cocoa to make at home, paired with a homemade marshmallow from Zingerman's Candy Company.

order at next door café or zcob.me/hotcocoa

revel in your resolve to eat more whole grains this year

The Times has learned a quiet revolution has been sprouting up at Zingerman's Bakehouse over the past few years. Thanks to a couple of granite mill stones that now reside in Ann Arbor inside Zingerman's Bakehouse, the flavors, aromas, and textures of the artisan bakery's baked goods have been getting a big boost! Now, many of the brownies, cookies, and breads are infused with freshly milled whole grain flours and as a result, Bakehouse guests are experiencing a whole new stratosphere of flavor and nutrition. *The Times* taste testers recommend getting started with State Street Wheat bread, Country Miche, Graham Crackers, and Veggie Confetti cake.

order at zingermansbakehouse.com or zingermans.com

soul-warming pot pies to comfort you this winter

As temperatures drop, *The Times* food writers have been informed that pot pie season at Zingerman's Delicatessen is on the horizon. Every year, the Deli team dreams up ways to evolve the already beloved savory pies—they get better and better. Early reports indicate pot pie lovers can pick up six different flavors of frozen pies. "Tucking one of our pot pies into your freezer for the next bone-chilling night is a special way to warm up your dinner table this winter," said Rodger Bowser, head chef and managing partner of Zingerman's Delicatessen. In January and February, get them for a stock-up-and-save price: buy 10 or more get 10% off, 20 or more get 20% off and 30 or more get 30% off. You could be the neighborhood or family pot pie fairy.

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attention food lovers!

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For short reads, follow us on Twitter **@zingermans** and Instagram **@zingermanscommunity**

Marketplace Changes

ferent sauces, such as chili, Manchurian (a dark sauce with garlic and soy), and pepper-style.

Diners can expect to see both Nakka and Rampa in the restaurant, rotating between Ann Arbor and Farmington Hills. Their immediate goal is to learn what locals like to eat (lamb dishes are already proving popular). If something doesn't sell, it will disappear from the menu and be replaced by something they hope Ann Arbor diners will like better.

At opening, public health orders limited Aroma to carryout or delivery. Come summer, the partners plan to turn their small parking lot into an outdoor, lighted patio.

Aroma Indian Cuisine, 211 W. Liberty, (734) 800–4198. Mon., Wed., Thurs., & Sun. 11:30 a.m.–9 p.m., Fri.–Sat. 11:30 a.m.–10 p.m. Closed Tues. aromaannarbor.com

Briefly noted

Bohmey Beauty, selling nontoxic and "ethically-made" hair, skin, makeup and home items, has opened on the second floor of the Kerrytown Shops. It is the second location for owner Angeline Pratt, whose first shop is in Adrian.

Bohmey Beauty, 407 N. Fifth Ave. (Kerrytown Market & Shops). Mon., Tues., Thurs. 10 a.m.–5 p.m, Weds. & Sat. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–4 p.m. bohmeybeauty.com

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The **Wendy's** in the parking lot of the Courtyard Shops closed in the summer of 2019, and residents have wondered what might go into the space ever since. Recently, a maintenance crew removed the last Wendy's signs and spruced up the exterior of the vacant building.

A crew member, who did not give his name, said he was part of a group of workers who are regularly dispatched from Wendy's headquarters in Dublin, Ohio, to perform repairs on the fast-food chain's buildings.

That's sparked speculation that the empty Wendy's could get another tenant. One name that's floating around is Culver's, the Wisconsin-based chain known for butter burgers and frozen custard, whose only Ann Arbor outpost is on Jackson Rd.

Spokeswoman Alison Wedig says Culver's has no current plans for a second Ann Arbor location. East-siders willing to drive a ways will soon have another option, though: a new Culver's is going up in Canton, on an out-lot at the Ford Rd. Meijer.

Closings

In November, **Urban Outfitters** quietly packed up its trendy clothes, books, and housewares and vacated the ground floor beneath the State Theater it had occupied since 1989. It reemerged as a holiday season pop-up at Briarwood but left a big question behind: what will replace it?

Colliers International is listing the 10,800-square-foot space for $55 a square foot, with a base monthly rent of $49,500. "Tons of foot and auto traffic, surrounded by established national retail, restaurants and local shops," reads the listing.

Listing agent Jim Chaconas will only entertain national tenants, and they'll have to be high-volume ones in order to generate that kind of revenue during the pandemic and with campus mostly empty.

Who might fill the prime State St. spot vacated by Urban Outfitters? One intriguing possibility: a "small-format" Target.

Who could that be? One intriguing possibility: Target. To complement its 1,800-plus superstores, the Minneapolis-based chain is opening "small format" stores around the country. Many are near college campuses, including Michigan State, Ohio State, Minnesota, Northwestern, and Maryland.

"At Target, we continuously explore possible locations for new stores, including in the Ann Arbor area," emails spokeswoman Jill Lewis.

"I can tell you we are pursuing the opportunity to reach new guests in Ann Arbor, but at this time, we're not at a point where we can share any new store plans."

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Chuck E. Cheese's, the pizza and games parlor that hosted birthday parties for generations of youngsters and their patient parents, closed all its approximately 600 locations early in the pandemic. In June, its parent company filed for bankruptcy protection.

In the filing, the company said that only thirty-four of the closings were permanent, and its Facebook page still describes the Ann Arbor location as "temporarily closed." But in mid-December, a crew was packing boxes of plastic trinkets and fixtures onto a truck, and the cotton candy machine was stashed in a dumpster.

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Pointless Brewery & Theatre on Packard closed in September. Its website said it did not make financial sense to renew its lease. Improvisation classes and workshops continue online. It is also accepting donations.

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The **Bob Evans** restaurant at 3143 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. has closed, and signage has been removed. The location on Carpenter Rd. remains open. Also gone: the **Subway** in the Courtyard Shops. A sign refers customers to the store at Washington and Division. ■

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TIPS FOR READING

This month's calendar includes both online and in-person events. Due to the **Covid-19 pandemic,** all listed in-person events are contingent upon the venue's operational status. Published events reflect plans as of press day (17 December), while the most up-to-date calendar is available at **AnnArborObserver.com.**

Our online calendar is not only an expanded version of the print calendar but is also continually updated and searchable. It includes listings, submitted by the public, of classes, religious services, political activities, and other types of events not suitable for print.

★ **Denotes a free event**

All phone numbers have area code (734), unless otherwise noted.

Recurrent events are listed only on the date of their 1st occurrence, except for performing arts, which are always listed on each day they occur. Thus, the first week of each month will always contain information about events throughout the month.

We want to know about your event!

Please send us your press release by the **10th day of the preceding month.**

- **Email:** events@aaobserver.com
- **Phone:** 769–3175

What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor entertainment and other leisure events, but we also list activities elsewhere in Washtenaw County deemed of interest to our readers.

Please submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the 11th might not be included in the print calendar but will be added to our online calendar at **AnnArborObserver.com.** Due to space limitations, many listings, especially for weekday daytime and recurrent events, appear only in the online calendar.

1 FRIDAY (NEW YEAR'S DAY)

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** *Dec. 16–Jan. 16.* U-M opera lecturer Abbigail Cote directs U-M students in the acclaimed composer Missy Mazzoli and her librettist Royce Vavrek's atmospheric 2018 chamber opera based on Karen Russell's short story. It's about an American family struggling to meet the overwhelming challenges of homesteading during the westward movement of settlers in the late 19th century. A small chamber orchestra conducted by U-M voice professor Kirk Severtson accompanies. Prerecorded in November in the Power Center. *Anytime Dec. 16–Jan. 16, online at YouTube.com (search "umich smtd"). Free.*

★**New Year's Day Service: Zen Buddhist Temple.** A virtual new year ceremony of contemplation, chanting, and candle lighting. *11:30 a.m., online at YouTube (search "Ann Arbor Zen Temple"). Free. AnnArborZenTemple@gmail.com.*

★**"Lunch & Learn": Temple Beth Emeth.** *Every Fri.* TBE rabbi Josh Whinston leads informal discussions on religion. Eat lunch during the video call, if you wish. *Noon, for online URL see TempleBethEmeth.org. Free.*

2 SATURDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**"Ann Arbor Group Runs": Running Fit.** *Every Sat. & Mon.* Runners of all abilities invited to join a run of 3–14 miles along varying routes from different Running Fit locations. Also, a speed-training session (every Tues. 6 p.m., 5700 Jackson Rd.). Rain, snow, or shine. *8 a.m. (Sat.), 5700 Jackson Rd. and 6 p.m. (Mon.), 123 E. Liberty. Free. 769–5016 (Mon.), 929–9022 (Tues. & Sat.).*

★**Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Speedway.** *Jan. 2, 16, & 30.* One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country featuring off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Each racer can bring one guest spectator only. Masks required, Covid-19 screening at entrance, and social distancing enforced. *Racing starts at 10 a.m. (speedway opens at 8 a.m.) and goes until everyone is done. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. Free admission. $15 to race (additional entries, $10). Facebook.com/WashtenawRCSpeedway.*

★**Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops.** *Every Sat. & Wed.* Local chimemaster Heather O'Neal plays a short program TBA on this 17-bell chime. *10:30 a.m. (Sat.) & noon (Wed.), Kerrytown Market & Shops. Free. OfGlobal@aol.com.*

"Creature Encounters": The Creature Conservancy. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Conservancy staffers introduce **Poco the sloth,** a black-and-white tegu lizard, and a 3-banded armadillo on the indoor stage. Guests invited to view other animals on display, including a kangaroo, albino alligator, African crested porcupines, and binturongs. Masks required. *1–2:30 p.m. & 3–4:30 p.m., Creature Conservancy, 4950 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. $10 (kids ages 2–12, $8; age 2 & under, free) in advance only at TheCreatureConservancy.org (capacity limited). 929–9324.*

★**"TriviaTime!": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Sat. & Wed.* Local sisters Katie and Abbie throw out themed questions for anyone to answer in the YouTube chat box. *7–7:30 p.m. (Sat.) and 4–4:30 p.m. (Wed.), online at AADL.tv. Free. 327–4200.*

Bill Bushart: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. This Michigan native specializes in wild, raunchy, politically incorrect, often hilariously demented stories and one-liners about everyday life. Masks required, except when eating or drinking. *7:30 and 10 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15 in advance, $17 at the door (capacity reduced to 20 percent). aaComedy.com, 996–9080.*

★**The Yellow Room Gang: The Ark Family Room Series.** In-the-round performances by this group of 8 award-winning Michigan songwriters who get together regularly to share their new work. Members are **David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba,** and **Michael Hough & David Tamulevich** of the local duo Mustard's Retreat. *8 p.m., online at Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor. Free, donations appreciated. 761–1451.*

3 SUNDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**U-M Men's Basketball vs. Northwestern.** This month's schedule also includes home games vs. **Minnesota** (Jan. 6), **Wisconsin** (Jan. 12), **Maryland** (Jan. 19), and **Indiana** (Jan. 30). Livestream only from Crisler Center. *Time TBA, online at mGOblue.com/sports/mens-basketball/schedule. Free. 764–0247.*

★**Sunday Talks: Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** *Every Sun. See review, right.* Jewel Heart resident spiritual advisor Demo Rinpoche reflects on Tibetan Buddhist teachings on such matters as wisdom, generosity, patience, and enthusiasm, and discusses how to implement them in ordinary life. *11 a.m., for online URL preregister at bit.ly/jeweldharmatalk. Free.* 994–3387.

★**H.A.C. Ultimate.** *Every Sun.* All invited to join a relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport played with a flying disc. Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *11:15 a.m., Fuller Park, just west of the pool & parking lot (or occasionally across the street). Free. 846–9418, hac-UltimateList@GoogleGroups.com.*

★**"Dreaming Through the Arts": First Presbyterian Church Exploring the Faith Series.** *Jan. 3 & 10.* Local artists share their work and discuss its backstory. *Jan. 3:* Visual artists Lois Bryant (fiber), Angie Miller (paint), and Carole Pawloski (multimedia). *Jan. 10:* Writers Judy Wenzel (biography), Scott Ellsworth (history), and Callie Feyen (memoir). *12:15 p.m., online at bit.ly/dreamingarts2020. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"Premiere of *The Tempest: Act 3*": Community High School Ensemble Theatre.** *Tentative date.* Quinn Strassel directs CHS students and the school's iconic literature teacher Judith DeWoskin in a virtual staged reading of Act 3 of Shakespeare's visionary romance about a magical island ruled by an enigmatic sorcerer and her beautiful daughter. *The Tempest* is filled with verse and song and it contains some of Shakespeare's most gorgeously haunting poetry. Act 4 is expected to premiere later this month, with the final Act 5 releasing early February. *7:30 p.m., online at a2cet.org; the performance will be available online through the academic school year. Free. 994–2025.*

Sundays at Jewel Heart

Cross-cultural Buddhism

2000 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED DEMO RINPOCHE

When discussing how one can lose one's way in *samsara*—the endless cycle of life, death, and rebirth—Demo Rinpoche talks about getting lost in an Ann Arbor roundabout. You do not get everything you want in this world, explains the resident spiritual adviser of Jewel Heart International, "otherwise you would be in heaven."

Buddhist practices aim to end this cycle by overcoming desires, ignorance, and suffering to reach the transcendent state of nirvana. But you also have to work for it, Rinpoche says, and you may experience some discomfort—don't be like his childhood friend who really wanted to become a doctor so that he could ride in a helicopter, but who failed to study, ever.

Rinpoche's Sunday dharma talks deftly weave together Tibetan Buddhist teachings with everyday life in Ann Arbor, an international perspective, and a charming humor (sometimes he even gets the giggles). Even for those who are not Buddhist, these Sunday talks can be a soothing salve.

While discussing the fear of loneliness during the pandemic, Rinpoche clarifies that being alone at home is not the same as having no one. There are many Tibetan practitioners who go away on retreat alone for three years and do not feel lonely. He connects the principle of compassion to the happiness that comes from protecting others by wearing a mask and the principle of care with the way we wait while Canada geese walk, ever so slowly, across the road. Stories about RBG, comedians, celebrities, recycling, iPhones, and his tiny dog with anger problems also help make big concepts tangible and difficult subjects manageable.

When Covid-19 came to Michigan, Jewel Heart, the Tibetan Buddhist center on Oak Valley Drive, moved its Sunday services completely online. Each talk is preceded by a guided meditation and followed by a facilitated group discussion based on the morning's talk. Production quality is great—Jewel Heart has been recording and broadcasting talks for years (there's an archive on its YouTube channel).

Demo Rinpoche was educated at Drepung Loseling Monastery and Gelugpa University in India and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He came to the United States at the request of Gelek Rimpoche, the founder of Jewel Heart, who died in 2017. (Rinpoche and Rimpoche are alternate transliterations of an honorific meaning "precious one.")

When sharing a Tibetan teaching to not expect that you will be able to recognize a bad friend by the horns on his head, he says, "like Hellboy." He talks about reading Indian storybooks as a boy which featured epic battles between gods and demigods, and the demigods were always drawn with horns and scary faces, so they were obviously the bad guys. Instead, a bad friend could look very much like him during his monastery days—he used to torture his friends during the World Cup by telling them the score before they had a chance to see the game.

—Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

Jewel Heart's Sunday dharma talks are webcast via Zoom every Sunday at 11 a.m. Free, but preregistration is required at jewelheart.org.

4 MONDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

"Celebrating and Engaging with Nature This Winter": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Olli@ Home. *Jan. 4 & 18.* Two talks on how to connect with nature. *Jan. 4:* GIVE 365 recreation supervisor Erika Pratt and Bivouac co-owner AJ Davidson on the opportunities, benefits of, and apparel for outdoor recreation. *Jan. 18:* Downtown Home and Garden owner Kelly Vore on entry-level birding. *3–4:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at OLLI-umich.org. $35 per talk and $115 for 10 Olli@Home series (members, $10 per talk and $90 for series); $25 annual membership fee. 998–9351.*

★**San and Emily Slomovits.** *Every Mon. & Thurs.* Multi-instrumentalist San (best known as half of the popular family-friendly duo Gemini and Observer contributor) and his vocalist-violinist daughter Emily perform live folk music geared towards kids (Mon.) and adults (Thurs.). *5 p.m., online at Facebook.com/GeminiChildrensMusic (Mon.) and Facebook.com/Emily.Slomovits (Thurs.). Free, donations for Food Gatherers or a social or racial justice–oriented organization accepted. sandor2021@gmail.com.*

★**"Newness": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County.** Locals TBA share inspiring quotes, music, and other reflections on the theme of "Newness." *7–8 p.m., for online URL email roederer@umich.edu. Free.*

5 TUESDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**"Live Trivia via Zoom": Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Jan. 5 & 19.* All invited to form teams of 4 or 5 persons to compete in a 2-round trivia contest. Solo competitors will be matched up. Questions are geared towards ages 55 & up, but all ages welcome. Prizes (curbside pick up only). *1–2 p.m., online at bit.ly/aasctrivia (passcode, 194912). Free. BRuthven@a2gov.org.*

★**"Getting Creative With": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Tues.* AADL staffers share and discuss creative projects they've been working on based on weekly themes TBA. *3 p.m., online at AADL.tv. Free. 327–4200.*

"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap tips with others. *6–8 p.m., for online URL preregister at MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-StitchNBitch. $2 monthly dues. 945–3035. [5x]*

★**Death Cafe: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** Interfaith Center Minister Annie Kopko leads a frank conversation about death. *6:30–8 p.m., online at InterfaithSpirit.org. Free, donations appreciated. 327–0270.*

★**"Friendshipping": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Chicago-based writers Trin Garritano and Jenn Bane read from and discuss their new book, an offshoot of their popular podcast that offers tips and tricks to make new friends and keep the old ones. *7 p.m., online at LiteratiBookstore.com. Free, donations accepted. 585–5567.*

★**Voices in Harmony.** *Every Tues.* All female singers invited to join the weekly virtual rehearsals of this local 40-member a cappella barbershop harmony chorus. *7–9:30 p.m., for online URL email Info@VoicesInHarmonyChorus.org. Free to visitors ($26 monthly dues for those who join). 765–3611.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *Jan. 5 & 19.* Club members show their digital images (Jan. 5) and digitized prints (Jan. 19) on various topics, including this month's assignment, **"Solitude."** Also, presentations by Minnesota-based professional photographer Ian Plant on **"Visual Design Techniques for Making Stunning Photos"** (Jan. 5) and amateur photographer John Santilli on **"Cityscapes, Architecture, and Miniature Diorama"** (Jan. 19). *7:30 p.m., for online URL email a2camclub@gmail.com. Free. 327–4781, AnnArborCameraClub.org.*

6 WEDNESDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**"OLLI Winter Open House: Discovering … at our age, in this age!": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.** Keynote address by Lawrence Livermore National Lab applied physics postdoc Brian Worthmann on **"This Happens in Science. This Happens at OLLI."** Preceded and followed by brief talks by OLLI program chairs, volunteers, and members. *10 a.m.–noon, for online URL preregister at OLLI-umich.org. Free. 998–9351.*

★**"Craft Chat": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 6 & 20.* AADL staffers discuss their current crafting projects and the inspiration they find online and in books. *3 p.m., online at AADL.tv. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Kerrytown Crafters.** *Every Wed.* All crocheters, knitters, spinners, weavers, felters, sewers, and other crafters invited to work on their own projects with others. Questions welcome, help available. *7 p.m. or so, for online URL join Facebook.com/groups/KTCrafters. Free. 926–8863.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Wed.* All male singers invited to join the weekly virtual rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7–8 p.m., for online URL email info@HVharmonizers.org. Free to visitors (annual dues for those who join). 796–7467.*

"Jazz at the Lincoln Center's Swing University: Jazz as a Tool for Liberation": University Musical Society Digital Presentation. *Every Wed.* JALC education resources and public programs director Seton Hawkins leads a 4-week lecture-discussion series that explores jazz through a social justice lens. Guest artists TBA. It is a sequential series, but each talk can be viewed as a stand-alone event. *Jan. 6:* **"New Orleans and the Birth of Jazz."** *Jan. 13:* **"Chicago and the Spread of Jazz."** *Jan. 20:* **"New York and the Big Bands."** *Jan. 27:* **"Detroit before Motown."** *7 p.m., online at ums.org/?s=jazz+as+a+tool. $10 per week (students, $5), for 4-week lecture series, $30. 764–2538.*

★**Gemily: The Ark Family Room Series.** Family concert by the veteran local acoustic duo Gemini with twin brothers Sandor and Laszlo Slomovits, who recently celebrated their 72nd birthdays, and Sandor's violinist daughter Emily. They offer singalongs, folk songs from around the world, and upbeat originals about life's simple pleasures, performed on more than a dozen instruments. *8 p.m., online at Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor. Free, donations appreciated. 761–1451.*

7 THURSDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**U-M Women's Basketball vs. Nebraska.** This month's schedule also includes home games vs. **Illinois** (Jan. 10), **MSU** (Jan. 18), and **Purdue** (Jan. 24). Livestream only from Crisler Center. *Time TBA, online at mGOblue.com/sports/womens-basketball/schedule. Free. 764–0247.*

★**"Louis Lessons": Kerrytown Concert House.** Live lecture-concert by popular local pianist **Louis Nagel,** a retired U-M music professor. *5:30 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. Free, donations accepted. kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com.*

★**"Biblio Files": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Thurs.* Three AADL staffers each answer their own questions relating to books in 5 minutes or less, such as "What is the prettiest book on your bookshelf?" *6–6:10 p.m., online at AADL.tv. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Peter Ho Davies: Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** This U-M English professor and award-winning fiction writer discusses his new comic novel about fatherhood, ***A Lie Someone Told You About Yourself,*** with WSU creative writing professor Donovan Hohn. *7 p.m., online at LiteratiBookstore.com. Free, donations accepted. 585–5567.*

★**"Virtual Trivia": Vault of Midnight.** *Every Thurs.* Vault of Midnight events head Caleb Wimbrow hosts a live trivia quiz in which participants post their answers in the comments section. Prizes. *7 p.m., online at Instagram.com/VaultOfMidnight. Free. 998–1413.*

★**Comhaltas.** *Every Thurs.* All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. *7 p.m., for online URL email Contact@DetroitIrishMusic.org. Free. Facebook.com/DetroitIMA.*

8 FRIDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**Weekly Skater Showcase: Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.** *Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29.* Local skaters show off their skills in video compilations released every Friday. *Early afternoon time TBA at YouTube.com (search "Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club"). Free. aafsc@AnnArborFSC.org.*

★**"First Chapter Friday": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 8 & 22.* An AADL staffer reads the 1st chapter of a new or favorite middle grade or young adult book TBA. *4 p.m., online at AADL.tv. Free. 327–4200.*

Rufus Wainwright: The Ark Livestream Series. *Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29.* The son of Loudon Wainwright III and Kate McGarrigle, this acclaimed young singer-songwriter specializes in piano-based neocabaret pop ballads that he sings in what *Rolling Stone* calls "a rough-silk voice [that] sounds like a worn, inebriated diva sweeping down a staircase." These concerts are part of a series of 18 weekly shows from his home in which Wainwright performs his entire studio discography in chronological order. *5 p.m., for online URL and tickets ($20 in advance, $25 day of show), see bit.ly/RW_TheArk.*

★**First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited to a brief Shabbat observance with secular readings, candle lighting, wine rituals, challah, and Yahrzeit observance to remember loved ones. *6:30–7:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at JewishCulturalSociety.org/shabbat. Free, donations accepted. 975–9872.*

★**"In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals": American Guild of Organists.** Wesley Theological Seminary church music professor emerita Eileen Guenther discusses her 2016 book. *7–8 p.m., online at AnnArborAGO.org. Free. WebAdmin@AnnArborAGO.org.*

★**"Lantern-Lit Ski and Snowshoe": Waterloo Recreation Area.** *Every Fri., Jan. 8–Feb. 5 except Jan. 29.* All invited to ski or snowshoe (conditions permitting) or walk a half-mile lantern-lit loop. Bring your own snowshoes. *7–9 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, 17030 Bush Rd., Chelsea. Free, preregistration required (space limited); recreation passport required. McGlashenK@michigan.gov.*

Derek Richards: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 8 & 9.* A Detroit native who now lives in Florida, Richards is known for his fast-paced stream of sarcastic observations about everything from phone solicitors and computers to Taco Bell and the experience of dating an exotic dancer. Masks required, except when eating or drinking. *7:30 & 10 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15 in advance, $17 at the door (capacity reduced to 20 percent). aaComedy.com, 996–9080.*

★**Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason: University Musical Society.** *Jan. 8–10.* Already internationally acclaimed at the age of 21, British cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason's recent album, *Elgar,* is an exploration of the musical landscape in pre- and post-war Europe anchored by Elgar's Cello Concerto. In this program, he is joined by his older sister, pianist Isata, in Beethoven's Cello Sonata in C Major and Rachmaninoff's Cello Sonata in G Minor. Post-performance discussion with the artists' parents, Stuart and Kadiatu Kanneh-Mason on raising a family of 7 musicians, issues of race within classical music, and more. *Available online anytime from 8 p.m. on Jan. 8 through Jan. 10, online at ums.org/season/2020–21-season. Free. 764–2538.*

9 SATURDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason: University Musical Society.** See 8 Friday. All day.

★**"Lessons Learned from the November 3rd Election": Washtenaw County Democratic Party.** Updates from Michigan attorney general **Dana Nessel** and other regional and local officials TBA. The meeting starts with an update on measures the state has taken in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. *9:30 a.m.–noon or so, for online URL see WashtenawDems.org/calendar. Free. 883–8250.*

★ *Denotes a free event*

"Creating Winter Habitat": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Drop off your spent Christmas tree to be eligible to take this hike led by a WCPARC naturalist to learn how they'll repurpose your tree into habitats for birds and other park wildlife. Masks required. *10 and 11 a.m. & 1 and 2 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Rd. $5 per group of 4 people or less. Capacity limited to 5 groups per hour; preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org (search Activity #IL461100).*

★**"Shakespeare in Performance": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.** A2CT actor-director Kat Walsh and actor Stebert Davenport discuss how to perform Shakespearean monologues. Followed by an interactive demo on the elements and meaning of a Shakespeare monologue TBA. Wear clothes that you can move in & have pen and paper handy. This is a participatory event. For age 18 & up. *1–4 p.m., for online URL preregister at bit.ly/januarya2ct. Free. 971–2228, manager@a2ct.org.*

★**"The Fiber Arts Social Hour": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 9 & 19.* All invited to work on their fiber and textile arts and socialize with AADL staffers. *1–2 p.m. (Sat.) and 4–5 p.m. (Tues.), for online URL see aadl.org/node/575007 an hour before event starts. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"Stewardship Saturday and Nature Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** All invited to help remove invasive shrubs for an hour or so, then hike along the river to look for signs of beavers and other wildlife. Followed by a bonfire and hot cocoa. Masks required. *1–4 p.m., Sharon Mills County Park, 5701 Sharon Hollow Rd. Free, preregistration required at carlislec@washtenaw.org (capacity limited to 20). Washtenaw.org/Parks.*

★**Volunteer Stewardship Workday: Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division.** *Jan. 9, 18, & 31.* All invited to help remove invasive plants in city parks. Wear a mask, long pants, closed-toe shoes, & work gloves, and maintain a 6-foot distance from others at all times; tools, snacks, & know-how provided. All minors should be accompanied by a caregiver. *Jan. 9:* Fritz Park. *Jan. 18:* Buttonbush Nature Area. *Jan. 31:* Foxfire West Park. *1–3 p.m., various locations. Free, preregistration required at Secure.Rec1.com/MI/city-of-ann-arbor/catalog (click on "NAP Workdays"). 794–6627.*

★**"Saturday Sampler": U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology.** Jan. 9 & 23. Virtual docent-led themed tours. *2–3 p.m., for online URL see lsa.umich.edu/kelsey. Free. 764–9304*

Derek Richards: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Friday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

★**Jill Jack: The Ark Family Room Series.** Sultry-voiced Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter whose music also draws freely on jazz and country flavors. Her annual birthday shows have amassed a strong following. Jack's 2005 CD *Moon and the Morning After* won a Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Folk Recording. *8 p.m., online at Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor. Free, donations appreciated. 761–1451.*

Peter Madcat Ruth: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704. World-renowned veteran local harmonica wiz whom Dave Brubeck once praised as one of the world's "great jazz soloists." He has a massive repertoire of blues, jazz, folk, and rock tunes, along with several fine originals and songs by other contemporary composers. *8 p.m., for online URL and tickets ($8), see InterfaithSpirit.org. 327–0270.*

10 SUNDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason: University Musical Society.** See 8 Friday. All day.

★**"Hacking Your Mind": First United Methodist Church Conversations About Science and Religion.** All invited to join a discussion led by Larry Engelhardt, former Yazaki North America electronics and instrumentation product manager, on the new PBS series about how corporate and political campaign ads knowingly exploit our intuitive judgements. *11 a.m.–12:15 p.m., for online URL call or email debbie@fumc-a2.org. Free. 662–4536, TinyURL.com/FUMC-ConvScience-Religion.*

★**"Winter Wander": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Hike led by WCPARC naturalist Kelsey Dehring. Masks required. *2–4 p.m., West Lake Preserve, 21598 Waterloo Rd., Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required at dehringk@washtenaw.org (capacity limited to 10).*

★**"Drawing for Adults": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31.* Ann Arbor Art Center instructor Payton Cook leads a different directed drawing activity each week. *3–3:30 p.m., online at AADL.tv. Free. 327–4200.*

The Jayhawks: The Ark Livestream Series. Seminal Minneapolis country-flavored folk-rock trio fronted by singer-songwriter Gary Louris, whose blend of Dylan, the Beatles, and Buck Owens was a major influence on the emergence of alt-country. Today's show showcases material from their new CD *XOXO. 4 p.m., for online URL and tickets ($20) see bit.ly/thejayhawks.*

★**"Snapshots: Glimpses of Art, Place, and Love": Kerrytown Concert House Live @ The 415 Steinway Sessions.** U-M piano professor Christopher Harding performs a program live from KCH that includes Mozart's Sonata in F major, Schumann's Arabesque in C major and Debussy's *Estampes. 5:30 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. Free, donations accepted. kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com.*

★**Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club.** All invited to discuss a book TBA. *4:30 p.m., for online URL call Aline Clayton Carroll at 769–2149 and give her your phone number and email. Free.*

★**"Performing the Moment, Performing the Movement": U-M Center for World Performance Studies.** Chicago-based multimedia artist **Damon Locks** discusses his work. Locks, who teaches art to men incarcerated at the Stateville Maximum Security Prison, founded the Black Monument Ensemble, a group of musicians and dancers who weave the words of black activists with intricate beats and harmonies. Q&A. *6:30–7:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at lsa.umich.edu/world-performance. Free. 218–1477.*

★**Ann Arbor (Mostly) Acoustic Open Mic.** Musicians of all ability levels and ages invited to sing and play anything from classic rock, Motown, and blues to bluegrass, folk, and country with others. All acoustic instruments (strings, horns, and woodwinds) welcome. Led by veteran local musicians Bill Connors and Phil McMillion. *7–9 p.m., for online URL preregister at MeetUp.com/Ann-Arbor-Acoustic-Jam. Free. 973–7791.*

★**Kol HaLev Rehearsal: Temple Beth Emeth.** *Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31.* All adults invited to join the rehearsals of this volunteer choir that sings both Jewish sacred and secular music. Led by TBE cantor Regina Lambert-Hayut. Pianist Taylor Flowers accompanies. *7 p.m., for online URL email CantorHayut@TempleBethEmeth.org. Free. 665–4744.*

"A Village … and Then Some": Ann Arbor Storytellers' Guild Living Room Live! Chelsea-based fiction writer & playwright Steve Daut tells a series of 4 short stories on unforgettable characters and wisdom gained from unlikely sources. *7 p.m., for online URL preregister at TinyURL.com/LRLive2U. Pay what you can ($10 or more suggested donation). Mail@SteveDaut.com.*

11 MONDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**"The Fabric of Civilization: How Textiles Made the World": Ann Arbor Fiberarts Guild.** L.A.-based writer Virginia Postrel discusses her new book. *7 p.m., for online URL preregister at AnnArborFiberArts.org/contact. Free. AnnArborFiberArts@gmail.com.*

★**Christine Hume: Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** This EMU creative writing program coordinator reads from her new collection of memoir and essays, ***The Saturation Project,*** with 2-time Pushcart Prize–winning novelist Deb Olin Unferth. *7 p.m., online at LiteratiBookstore.com. Free, donations accepted. 585–5567.*

★**Scandinavian Music Jam.** *Jan. 11 & 25.* Bruce Sagan and Brad Battey lead a virtual acoustic jam session devoted to traditional music from Sweden and Norway. All instruments welcome, no experience playing Scandinavian music necessary. *7:30–9:30 p.m., for online URL email bsagan@msu.edu. Free. (908) 721–2599.*

★**"Hood's Medical History": Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table.** All invited to join a live Facebook discussion of Stephen Hood's C-SPAN talk on his 2013 book *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General.* For Hood's hour-long talk, see aacwrt.org/aacwnews.htm. *8:30 p.m., online at Facebook.com (search "AACWRT"). Free. jfepperson@gmail.com.*

12 TUESDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**"Shoreline Management": Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation Division Stewards' Circle.** Talk by Cardno (Brighton) senior ecologist Shawn Duke. *7:30–8:30 a.m., online at tinyurl.com/SCZoom2021. Free. StewardshipNetwork.org.*

★**"Sunrise Nature": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Hike led by WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle. Masks required. *8:30–10 a.m., County Farm Park, 2230 Platt Rd. Free. Preregistration required at boglee@washtenaw.org (capacity limited to 10).*

galleries

New exhibits this month:

U-M Stamps Gallery, online only at stamps.umich.edu/exhibitions. *The Pandemic Circle* (Dec. 1–Jan. 31). Two new video works by New Delhi–based artist collective Raqs Media Collective. *Story, Word, Sound, Sway* (Jan. 18–Feb. 28). Multimedia works by eleven U-M Stamps School alumni exploring systems of oppression. 368–1095.

WSG Gallery, Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. *Selected Works* (Jan. 5–30). Works in various media by WSG's 14 members. Masks required. Tues.–Sat. 10 a.m.–6 p.m. wsg-art.com, 994–8004.

Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. *Selected Works* (all Jan.). Functional and decorative ceramics by Kay Yourist. Masks required. Tues.–Sat. noon–6 p.m. 662–4914.

★**"Special Collections After Hours: New Acquisitions of Medieval Manuscripts and Rare Books": U-M Library.** Talk by curator Pablo Alvarez. *4–5 p.m., for online URL preregister at umlib.us/newrarebooks. Free. pabloalv@umich.edu, 936–2311.*

★**"Strike for the Common Good: Fighting for the Future of Public Education": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Rutgers University labor studies and employment relations professor Rebecca Kolins Givan and Syracuse University English professor Amy Schrager Lang read from their new book. *7 p.m., online at LiteratiBookstore.com. Free, donations accepted. 585–5567.*

★**"A Memory Called Empire": Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & over invited to discuss Hugo Award–winning Arkady Martine's 2019 debut novel about interplanetary intrigue and culture clash. It's the story of an ambassador from a small independent space station on the edge of a galactic empire, who visits the imperial capital. *7–9 p.m., for online URL email esrabkin@umich.edu. Free.*

★**"Pub Sing": Ann Arbor Morris.** Local Morris dancers lead an evening of rousing choruses, drinking songs, sea shanties, and English folk songs. No set program; all participants are welcome to lead a song with a singable, reasonably easy-to-learn chorus. This is a participatory event. *7–10 p.m, for online URL email bsagan@msu.edu. Free.*

★**"Troubled Water: What's Wrong with What We Drink": Sierra Club Book Club.** All invited to discuss New York writer Seth M. Siegel's new book. *7:30 p.m., for online URL email nshiffler@comcast.net. Free. 971–1157.*

13 WEDNESDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**"Pee Wees: Confessions of a Hockey Parent": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** Rich Cohen, a writer for *Rolling Stone* and the *New Yorker,* discusses his new book with local sports writer John U. Bacon. *7 p.m., online at LiteratiBookstore.com. Free, donations accepted. 585–5567.*

★**"Who Needs Medicare for All?": Ann Arbor Area League of Women Voters Virtual Brews & Views.** Talk by Michigan for Single Payer Healthcare president Eli Rubin, a Western Michigan University history professor. *7–8:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at bit.ly/whoneedsmedicareforall. Free. 272–3634.*

★**"Confident Pluralism: Surviving and Thriving Through Deep Difference": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County.** *Jan. 13, 20, & 27.* All invited to discuss Washington University (St. Louis) law and religion professor John D. Inazu's 2016 book. *7–8:30 p.m., for online URL email roederer@umich.edu. Free.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to read and discuss poetry or short fiction. Have your original work ready to share, if you wish. *7 p.m. (sign-up for new participants begins at 6:45 p.m.), for online URL email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com. Free.*

14 THURSDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**"Climate, Coffee, & Conversation": City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations.** All invited to chat about anything related to sustainability in the city and elsewhere. *8 a.m., online at bit.ly/climatecoffeeandconversation. Free. ZWaasSmith@a2gov.org.*

★**"The Underground Railroad of Washtenaw County": First Presbyterian Church Lunch & Learn Series.** Talk by African American Historical and Cultural Museum of Washtenaw County board member Bev Willis. *Noon–1 p.m., online at us02web.zoom.us/j/5502657984. Free. 662–4466.*

★**"Jazz Chats with Cool Cats": Kerrytown Concert House.** Local drummer **Pete Siers** and WEMU's former *Groove Yard* host George Klein discuss topics related to jazz and perform a program TBA. Live from KCH. *5:30 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. Free, donations accepted. kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com.*

"Chocolate & Mead": Zingerman's Delicatessen/ Bløm Meadworks. Zingerman's and Bløm's staffers sample and discuss several chocolates that go well with mead. *6:30–7:30 p.m., for online URL PREREGISTER at zcob.me/deli-tasting. Price TBA, includes samples available for curbside pickup.*

★**Melanie Benjamin: Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** This Chicago-based historical fiction writer discusses her new novel, ***The Children's Blizzard,*** with best-selling novelist (and U-M grad) Paula McLain. Benjamin's book is based on the little-known story of a freak snowstorm that swept the Great Plains in 1888, threatening the lives of immigrant homesteaders. *7 p.m., online at LiteratiBookstore.com. Free, donations accepted. 585–5567.*

★**"Singing for Comfort": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** All invited to tune in to a singalong of soothing songs that are easy to learn. No experience necessary. *7 p.m., for online URL see InterfaithSpirit.org. Free, donations appreciated. 327–0270.*

15 FRIDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**"The Fruits of Empire: Art, Food, and the Politics of Race in the Age of American Expansion": U-M Clements Library Bookworm.** Kent State University art history professor Shana Klein discusses her new book. *10 a.m., for online URL preregister at myumi.ch/nbk8k. Free. 649–3370.*

Robert Jenkins: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 15 & 16.* This Detroit comic and lawyer tells irreverent jokes with a disarming delivery. Masks required, except when eating or drinking. *7:30 & 10 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15 in advance, $17 at the door (capacity reduced to 20 percent). aaComedy.com, 996–9080.*

★**Peter Rowan: The Ark Family Room Series.** Traditional and contemporary bluegrass by this singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Rowan, a former member of Bill Monroe's Bluegrass Boys and a founding member of the 60s folk-rock bands Seatrain and Earth Opera. *8 p.m., online at Facebook.com/TheArkAnnArbor. Free, donations appreciated. 761–1451.*

★**"Some Old Black Man": University Musical Society Digital Presentation.** Wesleyan University film professor Joe Cacaci directs award-winning NYC playwright James Anthony Tyler's drama about a coolly intellectual college professor who moves his ailing but independent blue-collar father into his Harlem penthouse. This play explores the personal trauma of a family's history, as father and son try to rectify old wounds enabled by a racist world. Stars Wendell Pierce and Charlie Robinson. Prerecorded in November without an audience at the Jam Handy event venue in Detroit. *7:30 p.m., online at ums.org/performance/some-old-black-man-ums-digital-presentation. Free. 764–2538.*

16 SATURDAY

★**"Proving Up": U-M Opera Theatre.** See 1 Friday. All day.

★**"20th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration": Chelsea One World One Family.** *Jan. 16–18.* A weekend of community service activities geared toward individuals and families. Also, on Monday at 7 p.m., a **"Community Discussion"** on U-M's MLK Symposium. *All weekend, various locations; for complete schedule and updates see Facebook.com*

(search "Chelsea One World One Family") or email OWOFChelsea@gmail.com. Free. 748–3564.

★**"Troubleshooting Your New Year's Gifts": MacTechnics.** MacTechnics education VP Fred Seitz and information technologist Geronimo Felipe, and independent local "Mac Coach" Nicholas de Paul facilitate a troubleshooting session for problems raised by audience members. *11 a.m.–1 p.m., for online URL email Contact@MacTechnics.org. Free. MacTechnics.org.*

★**"Crossroads of a Dream: What Now?": National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women.** Keynote talk by Ypsi Township District Court judge-elect Erane Washington. Also, performances by youth from the School of Performing Arts (Flint) and more. *3 p.m., online at aa*NANBPW*c.org. Free. 355–2099.*

Robert Jenkins: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Friday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

17 SUNDAY

★**"Sweet Greeks: First Generation Immigrant Confectioners in the Heartland": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor.** Ann Flesor Beck, co-owner of multi-generational Flesor's Candy Kitchen (Tuscola, IL), discusses her new book, part memoir, part history. *4–5 p.m., for online URL preregister at CulinaryHistoriansAnnArbor.org/program-schedule. Free. a2culinaryhistorians@gmail.com.*

18 MONDAY (MLK DAY)

★**35th Annual Keynote Memorial Lecture: U-M MLK Symposium.** Live talks on this year's theme "Where Do We Go From Here," by poet **Gloria House** (best known by her African pen name Aneb Kgositsile) and activist **Malik Kenyatta Yakini.** House is a U-M Dearborn humanities & African American studies professor whose 3 collections of poetry reflect her lifelong involvement in civil rights struggles, African American community development, and international solidarity causes. Yakini is the founder of Detroit Black Community Food Security Network and winner of the James Beard Foundation's 2013 Leadership Award. Also, later today from 2–3 p.m., University of Pennsylvania American social thought professor **Mary Frances Berry** discusses "Race, Protest, and Politics." For the full schedule of the symposium, see oami.umich.edu/um-mlk-symposium. *10–11:30 a.m., online at oami.umich.edu. Free. mlkSymposiumInfo@umich.edu.*

★**Yamiche Alcindor: EMU 35th Annual MLK Day Celebration Keynote Lecture.** Live talk by this PBS *NewsHour* White House correspondent on the historical significance of the racially charged events of the past year. *1–2:30 p.m., online at emich.edu/mlk. Free.*

★**"Circle of Unity": U-M Michigan Community Scholars Program.** All invited to listen to or join a program of impromptu reflections on this year's U-M MLK symposium theme or complete the sentence, "I have a dream that …" Also, performances by local singer-songwriter Joe Reilly and U-M students TBA. *3–4 p.m., for online URL see lsa.umich.edu/mcsp/. Free. mcsProgram@umich.edu.*

★**"The Common Wind: Afro-American Currents in the Age of the Haitian Revolution": U-M Afroamerican and African Studies Department/U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies.** All invited to discuss Julius Scott's new gripping history on the intercontinental networks that tied together the free and enslaved masses of the New World. Based on his previously unpublished seminal 1986 doctoral dissertation. *4–5:30 p.m., online at lsa.umich.edu/daas. Free. daas-info@umich.edu.*

★**Monthly Meeting: Embroiderers' Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities and interests are invited to work on their own stitching projects and socialize. *7 p.m., for online URL call 330–5724. Free to visitors ($52 annual dues).*

★**"Back to the Roots": Michigan Botanical Club.** U-M ecology and evolutionary biology postdoctoral fellow Monique Weemstra discusses the symbiotic relationship between plant roots and mycorrhizal fungi. *7 p.m., for online URL email khaw@comcast.net. Free. 718–6114.*

★**Barbara Melnik Carson: Ann Arbor Women Artists.** Talk by this self-taught Detroit figurative sculptor. *7 p.m., for online URL see AnnArborWomenArtists.org. Free. AnnArborWomenArtists@gmail.com.*

19 TUESDAY

★**"Who Helped Make You … You?": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County.** All invited to discuss the people who shaped your vision for living. Facilitated by IRTWC codirector Renee Roederer. *11:45 a.m.–1 p.m., for online URL email roederer@umich.edu. Free.*

★**"Covid-19 Health Update": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute/Turner Senior Wellness Program Urgent and Critical Lecture Series.** Talk by U-M epidemiologist Emily Toth Martin and U-M infectious disease physician Lona Mody. *3–4:30 p.m., for online at OLLI-umich.org. Free. 998–9351.*

"A Meal Without Wine is Called Breakfast: A Conversation": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Afternoons with OLLI. Village Corner owner Dick Scheer, known as one of the most knowledgeable wine experts in the state, discusses his interests and knowledge with OLLI volunteer Bev Geltner. *3:30–5 p.m., for online URL preregister at OLLI-umich.org. $30 (members, $5); $25 annual membership fee. 998–9351.*

★**Ikebana International.** *Jan. 19 & 21.* Prerecorded videos of demos of this Japanese style of flower arranging led by instructors TBA. *7 p.m. (Tues.) and 2 p.m. (Thurs.), for online URL email a2ikebana@gmail.com. Free.*

★**Kevin Barry: Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** This widely acclaimed Irish fiction writer is joined by novelist Jonathan Dee to discuss his new collection of short stories, ***That Old Country Music***. *7 p.m., online at LiteratiBookstore.com. Free, donations accepted. 585–5567.*

★**"Windows on Diversity": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Slide-illustrated talk by Oregon-based entomologist and master photographer David Cappaert on 20 ant species you might find in an urban landscape, the architecture of bee morphology, and more. *7:30–9 p.m., online at bit.ly/windowsondiversity. Free. hvg@Michigan.SierraClub.org.*

20 WEDNESDAY

"Stolen: Five Free Boys Kidnapped into Slavery and Their Astonishing Odyssey Home": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. University of Maryland history professor Richard Bell discusses his new book, a finalist for both the George Washington Prize and the Harriet Tubman Prize. *10 a.m.–noon, for online URL preregister at OLLI-umich.org. $35 (members, $10); $25 annual membership fee. 998–9351.*

★**"The History of Darien, Panama": Washtenaw Audubon Society.** Slide-illustrated talk by renowned local ornithologist (and former WAS president) Mi-

films

Virtual Movie Palace (Michigan Theater). New titles available all month online at MichTheater.org/Screenings for 2–10 days after you start watching. Full January schedule online. $6–$12 per film. **"Martin Eden"** (Pietro Marcello, 2020). Drama based on Jack London's 1909 novel about an impassioned young writer trying to overcome his proletariat status. Italian, subtitles.

"Coded Bias" (Shalini Kantayya, 2020). Documentary about the discovery of racial bias in facial recognition algorithms.

"Jingle Bell Rocks!" (Mitchell Kezin, 2013). Documentary about Christmas music and Kezin's passion for finding obscure Christmas tunes.

"Zappa" (Alex Winter, 2020). Documentary about the legendary avant-garde musician.

"Crock of Gold" (Julien Temple, 2020). Documentary about the Pogues frontman Shane MacGowan.

"Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale" (Jalmari Helander, 2010). Horror-comedy about a boy and his father who must stop Joulupukki, a figure from Finnish folklore, from eating children after a multinational corporation frees him from his ancient icy prison. Finnish, subtitles.

"Collective" (Alexander Nanau, 2020). Documentary about a small group of journalists and activists investigating political corruption in Romania.

"The Library That Dolly Built" (Nick Geidner, 2020). Documentary about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the largest U.S. nongovernmental children's literacy program.

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chael Kielb. *8:10 p.m., for online URL see bit.ly/historyofdarien. Free.*

21 THURSDAY

★**"Japonisme and the Birth of Cinema": U-M Japanese Studies Department.** UC–San Diego Japanese language and literature professor Daisuke Miyao discusses his new book on the Japanese influence on the aesthetics of European films produced at the turn of the 20th century. *Noon–1:30 p.m., online at bit.ly/birthofcinema. Free. umcjs@umich.edu.*

John Doe: The Ark Livestream Series. The former frontman of the legendary L.A. punk band X, Doe is a versatile singer-songwriter whose songs mix and match folk, country, rock, punk, and pop genres. He describes his latest (2016) CD, *The Westerner,* as a "psychedelic soul record from the Arizona desert." For tonight's show, a solo performance from the Cactus Café in Austin, Doe promises "play as many requests as I can remember and fit into 75+ minutes." *9 p.m., for online URL and tickets ($20), see bit.ly/johndoe2021.*

22 FRIDAY

"Myanmar: Land of Golden Temples and Floating Villages": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Out of Town. Local photographer Ann O'Hagen shares her photos of cityscapes, rural landscapes, temples, and watery villages. *3–4:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at OLLI-umich.org. $35 (members, $10; $25 annual membership fee. 998–9351.*

"Euchre Change a Life!" Five-game online euchre tournament. Sign up with a partner, or get paired with one by the organizers. Prizes. Proceeds benefit Haitian children. *6:30–9 p.m., for online URL preregister by Jan. 20 at Facebook.com/EuchreChangeALife. $10 donation per player. EuchreChangeALife@gmail.com.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Readings by U-M creative writing grad students, featuring Kashona Notah (fiction) and Nathan Kweku John (poetry). *7 p.m., online at tinyurl.com/WebsterSeries. Free. dfrman@umich.edu, lmmorrow@umich.edu.*

★**"Story Night": Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** Guild members host a lively program of stories for grownups on the theme "Warm Places." Story Nights occur quarterly; the next one is Mar. 19. *7–9 p.m., for online URL preregister at bit.ly/aastorynight. Free. 665–2757.*

★**Virtual Play Readings: Ann Arbor Civic Theatre.** Local actors read from 3 new plays TBA. *7 p.m., for online URL preregister at a2ct.org/see-a-show. Free.*

★**Jaimie Branch: Edgefest 24 (Kerrytown Concert House).** New York–based trumpeter whose 2017 album, *Fly or Die,* has been called "stunning" by a *Chicago Reader* critic, who notes its "laser-sharp improvisatory exploration, ebullient melodies, and a deep feeling for groove." This is the 4th in a series of monthly concerts that constitute this year's edition of Edgefest, listed by *DownBeat* as one of the world's top 50 jazz/avant music festivals. *7:30 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com/Edgefest. Free, donations accepted. kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com.*

Bob Phillips: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 22 & 23.* Area comic and *Funny or Die* contributing writer known for his blend of observational, political, and everyday humor. Masks required, except when eating or drinking. *7:30 & 10 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15 in advance, $17 at the door (capacity reduced to 20 percent). aaComedy.com, 996–9080.*

★**Virtual Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** All invited to watch short astronomy presentations online by club members and learn about the planets, the Moon, the constellations, colorful binary star systems, and other visible astronomical objects. *8–10 p.m., for online URL see umichSAS.com. Free.*

★**Penny Stamps Speaker Series: U-M School of Art & Design.** *Jan. 22 & 29.* Artists TBA discuss their work. For updated schedule, see website. *8 p.m., online at stamps.umich.edu/stamps or dptv.org. Free. 936–0671.*

Virtual Play Reading: Penny Seats Theatre Company Arcade Series. Virtual reading of a play TBA. *8 p.m., for online URL preregister at PennySeats.org. Tickets $5. ThePennySeats@gmail.com.*

23 SATURDAY

★**"River and Prairie": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Hike led by WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance. Geared for ages 12 & up. Masks required. *9–11 a.m., Burns-Stokes Preserve, Zeeb at the Huron River just south of Huron River Dr. Free. Preregistration required at severances@washtenaw.org.*

★**"Systemic Racism: Covid-19 and the African American Experience in Michigan": U-M Turner African American Services MLK Celebration.** Panel discussion with Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reps Alexis Travis and Michelle Canady. *1–3 p.m., for online URL call 998–9353 or email twsp.info@umich.edu. Free.*

Aaron Jonah Lewis: Riverfolk Music and Arts Organization Blacksmith Shop Concerts. Prerecorded performance by this acclaimed Detroit-based multi-instrumentalist and Corn Potato String Band fiddler. He's appeared on recordings of everything from bluegrass and old-time to jazz and Turkish classical music. *7:30 p.m., for online URL and tickets ($0–$100 sliding scale), see crowdcast.io/e/blacksmith-shop-concerts-5. RiverfolkMusicAndArts@gmail.com.*

Bob Phillips: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 22 Friday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

24 SUNDAY

★**"Recycling Center Contamination": Ecology Center of Ann Arbor Craft & Chat.** Talk by Ecology Center staffers, followed by a demo on how to make a mini wind chime using common household waste that is too small to recycle. *10 a.m., online at YouTube.com (search "Ecology Center of Ann Arbor"). Free. mmunro@EcoCenter.org.*

★**"Researching Revolutionary America": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County Monthly Meeting.** Live talk by EMU history professor John G. McCurdy. Followed at 3:15 p.m. by **"Black Loyalists in the Revolutionary War,"** a talk by club member and Washtenaw County African American Genealogical Society cofounder Cheryl Garnett. *1:30 p.m., for online URL email Info@WashtenawGenealogy.org. Free. WashtenawGenealogy.org.*

★**Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild.** All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., for online URL preregister at bit.ly/storytellersguild. Free.*

★**"Mindfulness Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Mindful City cofounder Julie Woodward and WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle lead a guided walking meditation. Hot tea, so bring a mug if you like. *2–3:30 p.m., Scio Woods Preserve, north side of Scio Church Rd. west of Wagner, Scio Twp. Free. Preregistration required at boglee@washtenaw.org (capacity limited to 10).*

★**LezRead Book Club.** All queer women invited to discuss 2 books: Haley Cass's romance novel ***Those Who Wait,*** and Mariko Tamaki's graphic novel ***Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me.*** *4–5 p.m. or so, for online URL see a2LezRead.tumblr.com. Free. 686–4956.*

★**Tzu-Yin Huang: Kerrytown Concert House Live @ The 415 Steinway Sessions.** This locally based Taiwanese pianist performs a program live from KCH that includes Brahms' *Ballade* and Schumann's *Kreisleriana.* Huang is the winner of the prestigious 2016 Hastings International Piano Concerto Competition. *5:30 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. Free, donations accepted. kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com.*

26 TUESDAY

★**Introduction to Yoga: Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Rec. & Ed.** Mindful Health MI counselor Cinda Hocking leads an hour-long session of standing and seated yoga poses, along with breath work. *9:30 a.m., for online URL preregister at aaRecEdOnline.com. Free. 994–2300.*

★**"Purposeful Movement": Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Rec & Ed.** Learning from the Heart founder Katy Held leads a series of movements that help reduce stress and enhance brain function. Suitable for all ages. *6–7 p.m., for online URL preregister at aaRecEdOnline.com. Free. 994–2300.*

★**Justin Hamm: Skazat! Poetry Series.** Reading by this Missouri-based poet & fiction writer, the founding editor of the literary review *the museum of americana.* Preceded by an open mic. *7–8:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at Facebook.com/Skazat. Free. 223–3165.*

27 WEDNESDAY

★**"Everything You Need to Know About Copyright": U-M Library.** Talk by U-M copyright specialist Raven Lanier. *10–10:50 a.m., online at umlib.us/everythingcopyright. Free. rnlanier@umich.edu, 615–1351.*

★**"U.S. Race Relations and Foreign Policy": U-M Donia Human Rights Center Annual MLK Lecture.** Talk by U-M law and international diplomacy professor **Susan D. Page,** a former ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan, 2011–15. *4–5:30 p.m., 1010 Weiser Hall, 500 Church. Free. 615–8482.*

★**"An Evening of Poetry and Written Word": Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Reading by Kalamazoo-based polyglot essayist and poet **Hedy Habra,** whose third book of poems, *The Taste of the Earth,* won a Nautilus Book Award silver award. Followed by a poetry and short fiction open mic. *7–8:45 p.m., for meeting URL email cwPoetryCircle@gmail.com. Free.*

28 THURSDAY

★**Valeria Luiselli: U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series.** Reading by this fiction writer, a Mexico City native who grew up in South Africa. Her 2015 novel, *The Story of My Teeth,* was written in collaboration with workers at a Jumex juice factory. A finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, it concerns a world traveler and auctioneer whose most precious possessions are the teeth of famous and infamous people. Q&A. *5–6:30 p.m., online at tinyurl.com/ZellWriters. Free. 764–6330.*

★**"Feldenkrais Method": Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Rec & Ed.** All invited to try this "awareness through movement" style of exercise led by Michigan Feldenkrais owner Dale Jensen. *5:30 p.m., for URL preregister at aaRecEdOnline.com. Free. 994–2300.*

★**"Addressing Racism in Community: How It's Changed Us": Interfaith Round Table of Washtenaw County.** Participants in the Saline-based community discussion group People Addressing Racism share how their experiences as part of the group have shaped them personally. *7–8:30 p.m., for online URL email roederer@umich.edu. Free.*

★**"The Prince of Mournful Thoughts": Literati Bookstore At Home with Literati.** South Korean writer Caroline Kim, a Hopwood-winning U-M poetry grad, is joined by Boston writer Kate Wisel to discuss her new collection of stories about the Korean diaspora that explore what it means to be human. *7 p.m., online at LiteratiBookstore.com. Free, donations accepted. 585–5567.*

29 FRIDAY

"The History of the Stars": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. U-M Special Collections Library curator Pablo Alvarez discusses astronomical ideas from antiquity through early modern Europe. He also shows U-M's digitized collection of manuscripts and early printed books describing astronomy, including Galileo's first observations of Jupiter's moons. *10–11 a.m., for online URL preregister at OLLI-umich.org. $35 (members, $10); $25 annual membership fee. 998–9351.*

★**"Draw Jam": Vault of Midnight.** All invited to make art using supplies from your home and virtually socialize with Vault of Midnight staffers. *6 p.m., online at Instagram.com/VaultOfMidnight. Free. 998–1413.*

"Full Moon Night Hike": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Hike led by WCPARC naturalist Elle Bogle. Followed by a campfire, s'mores, and hot cocoa. Dogs welcome. *6:30 & 7:30 p.m., Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Rd. $5 per group of 4 people or less. Capacity limited to 5 groups per hour; preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org (search Activity #IL461100).*

44th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark Livestream Series. *Jan. 29 & 30 (different programs).* Livestreamed this year, this is a major highlight of the local musical year, with established and rising stars representing a wide spectrum of vernacular musical idioms. Tonight's headliner is **Raul Malo,** the former Mavericks lead singer with an eclectic repertoire ranging from rock and country to big-band jazz who sings in an exuberant, impossibly clean vibrato. Also: Australian singer-songwriter (and former Men at Work frontman) **Colin Hay,** the Newfoundland folk-rock singer-songwriter **Alan Doyle,** the Albion Americana ensemble **The War and Treaty,** Chicago-based folk-rock singer-songwriter **Joe Pug,** alt-rock singer-songwriter **Glen Phillips,** and the Traverse City alt-folk ensemble **The Accidentals.** *7 p.m., for online URL and tickets ($20 per night, $37.50 for both nights), see TheArk.org.*

"Ann Arbor Folk Festival Watch Party": Stony Lake Brewing Acoustic Routes Concerts. Jan. 29 & 30. All invited to view the Ark's annual festival on a big screen with professional sound. Food and drink available for purchase, or bring your own if you like. Masks required when not seated. *7 p.m., Stony Lake Brewing, 447 E. Michigan Ave., Saline. $20 cover charge per night, preregistration required at StonyLakeBrewing.com (parties of 2, 4, and 6 can be accommodated only). 316–7919.*

Andy Beningo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 29 & 30.* Michigan stand-up comic known for his observational humor. Masks required, except when eating or drinking. *7:30 & 10 p.m., 212 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets $15 in advance, $17 at the door (capacity reduced to 20 percent). aaComedy.com, 996–9080.*

30 SATURDAY

★**"Groove": Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Rec & Ed.** Local psychologist Hsiao-Wen Lo leads an hour-long program for adults that combines music with simple movements. Followed at 10:30 a.m. by **"Family Groove,"** featuring family-friendly music and movements that encourage group interaction. Suitable for age 14 & up. *9 a.m., for online URL preregister at aaRecEdOnline.com. Free. 994–2300.*

★**"Animal Tracks and Signs": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Shawn Severance leads a 30-minute nature program for all ages. *10 a.m. & 2 p.m., Fox Science Preserve, 2280 Peters Rd. Free. Capacity limited; preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org (search Activity #821002).*

44th Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark Livestream Series. See 29 Friday. Tonight's headliner is **Bruce Cockburn,** an acclaimed veteran Toronto-based singer-songwriter known for his riveting, rhythmically varied folk-to-rock guitar stylings and for his articulate, imaginatively impressionistic songs that blend leftist politics, Christian mysticism, and a barbed erotic intensity. Also: pop-folk singer-songwriter **Dar Williams,** New Age pianist **George Winston,** African American singer-songwriter **Vance Gilbert,** old-time music songster **Dom Flemons,** New Brunswick blues singer-guitarist **Matt Anderson,** and the veteran local bluegrass outfit **RFD Boys.** 7 p.m.

★**Gavriel Savit: Ann Arbor Orthodox Minyan.** This Illinois-based writer discusses his new historical fantasy, *The Way Back. 7:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at bit.ly/registerwayback. Free. mwoll@med.umich.edu.*

★**"Wine, Women, and Song: A Funny Thing Happened On the Way …": Kerrytown Concert House.** Video compilation of archival performances from this KCH tradition, featuring jazz, classical, and cabaret songs that showcase noted local singers. *7:30 p.m., online at KerrytownConcertHouse.com. Free. kch@KerrytownConcertHouse.com.*

Andy Beningo: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 29 Friday. 7:30 & 10 p.m.

31 SUNDAY

★**Book of the Month Club: Vault of Midnight.** All invited to discuss ***Snapdragon,*** Kat Leyh's new magical realist graphic novel about a young girl who befriends a witch. *2 p.m., online at Instagram.com/VaultOfMidnight. Free. 998–1413.*

★**Family Yoga: Ann Arbor Public Schools Community Rec & Ed.** All ages invited to a program of group movements led by Simply Holistic Fitness (Brighton) owner Carl Gunderson. *12:30–1:30 p.m., for online URL preregister at aaRecEdOnline.com. Free. 994–2300.*

kids calendar

Every Sun. (2 p.m.): **"Kerry Tales with Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** 5–10 minute long live program of rhymes, riddles, & stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. Archived performances available at bit.ly/kerrytales. *Online at YouTube.com (search "Kerrytales by Mother Goose"). Free. Contact@Kerrytown.com.*

Every weekday (10 a.m.): **"Virtual Storytime": Ann Arbor District Library.** A different local storyteller reads a story TBA to kids ages 2–5. *Online at AADL.tv. Free. 327–4200.*

Every Mon. (11–11:30 a.m.): **"Baby Time": Ann Arbor District Library.** All infants through 2-year-olds (accompanied by caregiver) invited to this program of songs, rhymes, movements, stories, and other activities. *Online at AADL.tv. Free. 327–4200.*

Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31 (1 p.m.): **"Drawing for Kids": Ann Arbor District Library.** Ann Arbor Art Center instructor Payton Cook leads a different directed drawing activity each week for kids in grades 1–5. *Online at AADL.tv. Free. 327–4200.*

Jan. 23 (1:30–3:30 p.m.): **"Winter Fire Building": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** Kids ages 7–11 invited to learn how to build a campfire using materials found in nature. One adult only may accompany each kid. *Independence Lake County Park, 3200 Jennings Rd. Free, but $6 vehicle entry fee. Preregistration required at ParksOnline.eWashtenaw.org (search Activity #821004).*

Memorials

ELAINE MARIE JOHNS

Mrs. Elaine Marie Johns, age 70, of Ann Arbor, Michigan passed away peacefully on Saturday, November 21, 2020 at her home surrounded by family. Elaine was born on February 22, 1950, in Meadville, Pennsylvania to Travis Cash & Demaris Evans. She was raised in Ann Arbor, attended Michigan State University, and returned to Ann Arbor after college to help run the family business and raise a family. The final year of her life she battled amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), which she fought with grace and grit.

Elaine is survived by her best friend and spouse of 52 years, Carl Johns. Elaine also leaves behind her sister Jan Raber (Florida), daughter Jennifer Babycz, son Nathan Johns; and granddaughters Natalie and Kendall Johns.

Elaine loved to cook and excelled in the kitchen. She shared her love for others through food, and enjoyed hosting family and friends for meals. She was an avid gardener and got outside to work in the yard whenever possible. She will be fondly remembered by her family and the community as the longtime owner of Ann Arbor's beloved Treasure Mart, where she devoted her time to helping shoppers find treasures for their homes for 48 years.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in Elaine's memory may be made to The ALS Association or Arbor Hospice.

Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.muehligannarbor.com for the Johns family.

Share a memorial tribute in the

Ann Arbor Observer

Text only or include a photo.

Rates are $7 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion (six line minimum).

$200 per photo up to 1.75 inches wide by 2 inches high.

Memorials will run in the next open issue.

Email: classifieds@aaobserver.com

Please include your name and contact information.

INA DAVIS SANDALOW

Ina Davis Sandalow, who taught history, civics, and law to thousands of Ann Arbor schoolchildren, died suddenly on Friday, November 20. She was 84.

Ina was an Ann Arbor fixture for more than half a century, raising a family in Burns Park, completing her education at the University of Michigan, and educating junior high and high school students at Tappan, Scarlett and Pioneer over a 20-year teaching career. She was active in many book clubs and breakfast groups, and could often be spotted jogging, walking, or biking around campus or in the Arboretum. She was an active member of the UM Law School community, particularly when her husband, Terry, became Dean in 1978. For the past 20 years, Ina was a docent at the UM Museum of Art, where she shared her passion for art with countless visitors and busloads of children.

Born Ina Faye Davis in Chicago on May 18, 1936, Ina led a life she never dreamed of while growing up. At age 19, she married Terrance Sandalow, whom she met on the beaches of Lake Michigan. The couple moved from Chicago to Vermont, Washington, D.C. and Minneapolis before settling in Ann Arbor in 1966 when her husband joined the UM Law faculty. While her kids were in school, Ina finished the undergraduate degree she began years earlier at the University of Chicago, earning both a bachelor's degree and a Master's of Education from the University of Michigan.

Ina had many passions. Her devotion to art led her to museums from Detroit to Abu Dhabi. Her love of nature spurred hikes from Yosemite to New Zealand. Though she didn't travel abroad until she was in her 30s, by the time she was in her 70s she and her husband had visited every continent and nearly 50 countries. Photographs of nature and wildlife she took during her travels line her Ann Abor home.

Ina was always in motion. Earlier this year, at age 83, she traveled to the UAE with her oldest son David so she could see the Louvre Abu Dhabi. Returning solo to Michigan, she scheduled an 8-hour layover in Amsterdam so she could visit the Rijksmuseum. A year earlier she had met up with her granddaughter and cousins in Jordan so she could see Petra. She took annual hiking trips with her daughter, Judith, and visited the Soviet Union with her son, Marc.

She had an enormous network of friends, whom she met with regularly over meals and walks. She participated in the Dexter-to-Ann Arbor 10K more than a dozen times and continued to walk or work out with a trainer regularly. She was also an avid reader, a life-long habit that played an important role in her early romance with Terry.

Her biggest passion was her family. Her three children all settled in Washington, D.C., where she had given birth to her middle son, and where she had taken hundreds of high school children on field trips. She and Terry spent at least a month each year in Washington, becoming a regular part of their grandchildren's lives. Ina's final day was typical of her retirement: A workout with her trainer, lunch with Terry, and a Zoom meeting with her book club.

Ina is survived by Terry, her husband of 65 years, her children, David, Marc and Judith, daughters-in-law Holly and Marcie, grandchildren Ben, Maya, Holly, Casey, Malcolm, Antonio and Phillip, and many great-grandchildren. There is no service scheduled at this time. The family asks that donations be sent to the Children's Law Center in Washington, D.C. (www.childrenslawcenter.org.).

LARRY THOMAS HUNTER 1951–2020

Larry Thomas Hunter, a well-known Michigan civil and human rights activist, died after a brief illness on November 12, 2020, at the University of Michigan Hospital in Ann Arbor. He was 69.

From his younger years as a member of the Black Panthers, tutoring and feeding breakfast to children, to his twelve years as a member of the Ann Arbor City Council (D, Ward 1), Larry was always engaged in helping others. Throughout his public service career, he was committed to social change and was always on the frontline fighting for social, economic, and racial justice, in his community and around the world. Never afraid to be outspoken, no matter the cost, he was a respected and renowned voice for the voiceless, praised by a current City Council member as "a king among men."

One of 14 children, he was born into poverty, growing up in Ypsilanti and then Ann Arbor. He began his career as an activist early in life. He held many social service jobs, among them heading the Model Cities Youth Program, working as a job developer for CETA (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act), and directing the Ypsilanti Resource Center. During his tenure on the Ann Arbor City Council, from 1982 to 1994, he addressed his neighborhood's social needs through skillful advocacy and a talent for successful compromise.

Acknowledging his reputation as a powerful force for social change, the *Ann Arbor News* endorsed him in the 1990 council race, writing, "Hunter is forthright, principled … strongly identified with housing and human rights issues." Larry's activism extended to countless volunteer activities as well, including coordinating the Washtenaw County contingent to the 1995 Million Man March, working with community groups on affordable housing, and setting up a homeless shelter. Just three months ago, he spoke eloquently as a panelist during a Zoom discussion with U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (12th District) on Black Lives Matter and policing issues.

After earning a Juris Doctor degree from the University of the District of Columbia's David A. Clarke School of Law in his late 40s, Larry did legal consulting on behalf of those in need. He also closely supported his wife's work on Latin American socio-environmental issues and indigenous land rights. On a trip up the Tapajós River in the Brazilian Amazon, he formed an instant bond with the Munduruku indigenous peoples.

A true Renaissance man, Larry was not only a policy wonk and astute political analyst, but also a history buff and a futurist. He was an accomplished percussionist (often playing in a locally acclaimed drum circle at Malcolm X Park in D.C.), a passionate gardener, and an electronics wizard. With his vast array of tools, he was able to fix anything from a computer to a broken faucet. Many of the condolence notes received in recent days have commented on his humor, wit, and the many stories he could tell about his life—including his attendance at one of Aretha Franklin's Christmas parties. Above all, he always did his best for his family and friends, and often for people he did not even know.

Larry left a message for younger generations: be yourself. Learn how to stand up and fight. If you get knocked down, get back up and keep fighting. In Larry's spirit, his family and friends ask you to fight for racial, social, and economic justice, and to help one another. Contributions in Larry's memory may be sent to the African American Cultural and Historical Museum of Washtenaw County (www.aachm.org), which he strongly supported. In keeping with Larry's wishes, a party in his memory will be announced next summer or early autumn.

Classifieds

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 11.

LifeScienceAudio.com
An Ann Arbor–based curated audiobook portal focusing on the grandeur of life.
www.LifeScienceAudio.com

One Burial Right (with space for 2 cremains or 1 casket and 1 cremains) at Forest Hills Cemetery (415 South Observatory Street, Ann Arbor). Location is Block 40, Lot 111. $900. Please contact May at maykess@gmail.com.

Miscellaneous

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 11.

I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 43? If you can, you could win a $25 check made out to any business advertising in this issue. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, January 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 2390 Winewood, AA 48103. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (put I Spy in the subject line).

FAKE AD CONTEST
Can you find the fake ad in this issue of the Observer? If you can, you could win a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue! One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, January 11. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: backpage@aaobserver.com or write to: 2390 Winewood, AA 48103.

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 11.

Home

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 11.

Available to clean your home. Excellent references. (734) 644–4510

★AFFORDABLE HANDYMAN★
Carpentry ★ Plumbing ★ Electrical
Kitchens ★ Baths ★ Basements
Quality Work ★ Attention To Detail
Appliance Repair ★ Firewood
Tree Trimming
(734) 545–4859 BillBoring2@gmail.com

Handyman for All Seasons
Drywall, painting, furniture repair, fix leaks, repair outlets, etc. Jared at (734) 223–5622 or jdwarshuis@gmail.com

Outdoors

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 11.

Place Your Classified Ad Today!

To advertise, email, fax, or mail your ad info to the address below by the 10th of the month.

Rates are $7 per line, or fraction of a line, per insertion (two line minimum). Ads will run in the next open issue.

Mail, email, or fax your ad to:
Ann Arbor Observer Classifieds
2390 Winewood Ave., Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Office: (734) 769-3175, Fax: (734) 769-3375
Email: classifieds@aaobserver.com

Please include your name and contact information.

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

Something to Celebrate?

Announce an engagement, wedding, birthday, or any special occasion. Text only or include a photo.
Call for more information: (734) 769-3175

Dear Readers,

Please confirm your FREE subscription.

WIN A $25 GIFT CERTIFICATE

You may call our office to confirm at 734.769.3175 extension 301, fill out the form below and mail it to our office, or email the information to subscribe@aaobserver.com. The confirmation is good for 3 years.

Why is this important?

To maintain our second-class-periodical postal status, which includes a faster, more economical delivery service, we have to show the post office that our readers want to keep receiving the Ann Arbor Observer.

Since 1976, the Observer has been a locally owned community resource. We want to continue to provide the Observer to all permanent Ann Arbor residents and chamber members in Washtenaw County. We are making every effort to keep costs in line and maintain our commitment to quality. **Please take a few minutes to confirm your FREE subscription.** Or become an Observer Friend! See page 42 for more information.

Thanks for reading the Observer.

Sincerely,

Patricia M. Garcia
Publisher

All new "Observer Friends" and FREE subscription confirmations received by **January 11** will be entered in a drawing for a **$25 Gift Certificate** at your choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

☐ **Yes!** I am a resident of the Ann Arbor Public School District and I want to continue receiving the Ann Arbor Observer and City Guide free of charge. Enter me in the $25 Gift Certificate drawing!

Call us at (734) 769–3175 extension 301 and leave a message with your contact information.

Click "subscribe" at AnnArborObserver.com

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in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

1388 BICENTENNIAL PKWY, ANN ARBOR—Beautiful custom home overlooking the pond in sought after Centennial Park. Over 5000 sq ft of finished living space with 4 bedrooms, loft, 31/2 baths, and a finished daylight basement. Double front entry doors welcome you into a soaring 2-story foyer leading to a formal dining room with butlers pantry, private study with French doors, and light-filled 2-story great room with radiant Fyre Glass Gems gas fireplace. The cook's kitchen is a dream with a 6 burner gas range, SS appliances, large center island with bar seating, and spacious eating area. A guest bedroom, full bath, and laundry/mudroom complete the main level. Upstairs you will find a sumptuous master retreat with vaulted ceiling, bay window sitting area, two walk-in closets, and spa-like bath with shower panel/rainfall shower system; two generous bedrooms, and a loft that could be converted to a fifth bedroom. Outside is a newer Azek Deck with stairs leading to a patio with built-in firepit and lush landscaping. So many new and upgraded items including roof, 3-zone HVAC units with smart controls, tankless water heater, many new windows, and newer carpeting. Walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline Area High School. Low Pittsfield Township taxes. MLS# 3277304. $710,000.

Christine Faeth
The Faeth team
Christine@ChristineFaeth.com
TheFaethTeam.com.
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NEW LISTING – TRAVIS POINTE – Stunning 5-bedroom, 4-bath, 2 ½-bath custom-built home with view of the #4 Hole at Travis Pointe Country Club. You will love this setting at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac with mature trees, large backyard, and paver patio. The interior is stunning. Highlights include two-story family room with fireplace, gourmet kitchen with cherry cabinets and prof grade appliances, first den with cherry built-ins, luxury primary bedroom suite with two walk-in closets, and finished lower level. You will love this home. $1,095,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WALNUT RIDGE – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath custom-built home by Toll Brothers in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Very convenient location just minutes to schools, shopping, and UM campus. The house is fantastic with many updates and perfect decor. Features include large backyard, deck and screened porch, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless-steel appliances, two-story family room, luxury master suite, and walkout basement. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – SALINE – Custom-built 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath all brick home on a peaceful acre lot in one of Saline's best neighborhoods. This home is incredible. The exterior features extensive landscaping, cover patio, deck, and huge backyard. The interior loaded. Highlights include great room with fireplace, maple kitchen with granite, paneled den, luxury first floor master suite with newer spa-like bath, bonus room, and incredible finished basement. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – This 5-bedroom, 4-bath architectural gem is simply stunning. Custom-built with the highest standards of materials and craftsmanship you will be amazed by the quality and space of this truly one-of-a-kind home. This home rests on a private 2.5-acre lot with complete privacy and surrounded by nature. Interior highlights include two-story great room, open concept kitchen with quartz countertops, luxury master suite with walk-in closet and spa-like bath, and finished walkout basement. $769,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL PARK – This 4-bedroom, 4-bath, two ½-bath former builder's model home is loaded with custom features in one of Saline school's most popular neighborhoods. This home rests on one of the largest lots in the neighborhood with extensive landscaping, paver patio, and huge backyard. The interior highlights include two-story family room, cherry kitchen, sunroom, private den, luxury first floor master suite, bonus room, and finished basement. $739,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SAGINAW HILLS – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home on a dramatic 1.6-acre setting just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor in Scio Township. You will love the hilltop setting with panoramic views, extensive landscaping, great deck, and private backyard. The home features a 4-car garage, remodeled maple kitchen, open concept family room, incredible 4-season sunroom, luxury master suite, and flex-use bonus room area. $684,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – HURON CHASE – This 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath Ann Arbor Hills location condo is simply perfect. You will love the location walking distance to Whole Foods and Barnes and Noble, and short drive to UM Campus and all hospitals. This unit rests on a premium pond front setting with year-round nature views. The interior is sharp featuring a great room with fireplace and vaulted ceiling, first floor primary bedroom, and finished lower level with view out windows. $629,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3 ½-bath former Showcase of Homes entry on a quiet cul-de-sac lot. The setting of this home is wonderful with great landscaping, large deck, and paver patio. The interior has been completely remodeled and is gorgeous. Highlights include hardwood floors throughout the home, cherry kitchen with granite counters, open concept family room with fireplace, paneled den, luxury master suite with new bath, great kids' bedrooms, and finished basement. $629,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ARBORETUM – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 4 ½-bath home on one of the best lots in this very popular neighborhood walking distance to downtown Saline. You will love the setting of this home with a spacious backyard, large deck, and great landscaping. The interior sparkles with many recent updates. Features include two-story great room with fireplace, open concept kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, luxury first floor master suite, den, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths on the 2nd level, and finished walkout basement. $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HERITAGE FALLS CONDO – Stunning 3-bedroom, 2 ½-bath ranch condo in one of the most convenient locations you'll see. You will love living walking distance to restaurants and shopping and just minutes to I-94 and UM campus. The interior is loaded with quality finishes. Features include great room with fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless-steel appliances, sunroom, luxury first floor master suite, 2nd bedroom suite, and 3rd bedroom that makes a perfect den. $489,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WALK TO UM STADIUM – Sharp 4-bedroom, 2-bath ranch just minutes to schools, shopping, and downtown Ann Arbor. You will love this charming neighborhood and a great setting with fenced backyard. The interior is fantastic and includes a welcoming living room with fireplace, updated kitchen with granite and stainless-steel appliances, master bedroom with two closets, 3 additional bedrooms, 2 baths, and partially finished basement. $419,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

HOMETOWN VILLAGE – This very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home is just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and UM campus in one of the area's most desired neighborhoods. You will love the setting of this home including the large deck and great patio. The interior a fantastic and features 10' first floor ceilings, open concept floorplan, living room with fireplace, spacious kitchen, luxury master suite with vaulted ceiling, great kids' bedrooms, and partially finished basement with view out windows. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This charming 4-bedroom, 1 ½-bath turn-of-the-century two-story has been beautifully restored and is just blocks from the heart of downtown Saline. You will love being walking distance to shopping and restaurants from this historic home. Features include hardwood flooring and stained original trim throughout, spacious living room, formal dining room, family room, remodeled kitchen with great combination of original and modern touches, great bedroom space upstairs, and remodeled bath. $319,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR CONDO – This 3-bedroom, 3 ½-bath townhome condo was the model home for this complex and is loaded with quality upgrades. You will love the location just minutes to UM central campus and US-23. This end-unit condo features a great open concept floor plan. Features include maple kitchen with granite counters, living room with fireplace, great master suite with vaulted ceiling, attached bath, and walk-in closet, and finished lower level. $319,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – BRECON VILLAGE – This 2-bedroom, 2-bath ranch style condo is in one of the area's only 55 and over senior living complexes. This condo features the perfect blend of independent living with available services close by. The setting of the is unit is fantastic with pond views and a short walk to the clubhouse. The interior features and comfortable living room, formal dining space, nice kitchen with eat-in area, primary bedroom with attached bath and walk-in closet, and 2nd bedroom and bath. $289,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR CONDO – Very sharp 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch condo in Walden Village. You will love this very convenient location on Ann Arbor's west side just minutes to shopping and UM Central campus. The unit has a great setting with views of Dicken Woods from your private patio. The interior features fresh paint and new flooring throughout. Features include large living room with lots of natural light. Spacious kitchen, nice master suite with attached bath, 2 additional bedrooms, and a partially finished basement. $245,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

Reinhart

LUXURY HOMES

THE EXPERT IN THE SALE OF FINE HOMES

1802 Judd Rd, Saline Schools
Rare opportunity! Park-like 4.73 acres with 3,892 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathroom home with all the amenities! Gourmet kitchen, stone fireplace, deck. Two garages, 32x40 pole barn. $625,000. Elke VanDyke 734-635-3150. #3276963

1210 Wells St, Ann Arbor
Classic Burns Park home with original woodwork and refinished hardwood floors throughout. French doors open to formal living. Charming front porch, fenced backyard with deck and shed. $660,000. Patti Eddy 734-646-2705. #3275876

3 Songbird Spring Ct, Scio Township
Design your dream home with Jim Binder Building at one of these incredible lots located on a private setting in a cul-de-sac that is just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor or Dexter. $775,000-$1,100,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3262750

4158 Glen Eagles Ct, Ann Arbor
Frank Lloyd Wright inspired custom 4 bedroom, 5 full, 1 half bath, built in 2018. Hickory floors, abundant windows, gourmet kitchen. 1,446 sq. ft. in finished walkout. On premium site. $950,000. Pat Durston 734-260-9247. #3275649

2211 Devonshire Rd, Ann Arbor HIlls
A rare find! 3,024 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath built in 1929 on .53 acre. Includes adjacent .58 acre lot with tennis court. Lovely period charm enhanced with updates and additions. $1,399,000. Jean Wedemeyer 734-604-2523. #3276922

7905 Grand Street, Grandview Commons
New construction luxury condo steps to downtown Dexter! 2-5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths with loft and den. Gorgeous island kitchen, 2nd floor laundry, mudroom. 2-car garage. Many upgrades! $630,000. Jessica Singer 734-780-5526. #3263293

2575 Blueberry Ln, Ann Arbor
Great location! Quad level 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath on 1.16 acre lot with mature landscaping. Many updates, partially finished basement, sprinkler system, porch, paver patio. Walk to Skyline. $675,000. Tammi Ebenhoeh 734-276-4663. #3276825

4850 Hidden Brook Ln, North Ann Arbor
Private 2.2 acre setting surrounded by towering trees, backing to creek. Impressive 2-story home is a fresh departure from cookie-cutter and beckons those who embrace Mother Nature's finest! $785,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3276706

3035 Foxcroft St, Ann Arbor
Picture perfect 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath colonial. Cherry kitchen, large family room, living room and formal dining. Library and office space. Finished lower level, 2.5-car garage. Don't miss! $998,000. Kim Peoples 734-646-4012. #3277312

218 W Kingsley, 401, Kingsley Condos
Stunning, brand new 4th floor end unit in the heart of downtown Ann Arbor! Patio with southern exposure, city views. 2,638 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Master suite with luxury bath. $1,400,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3269371

1874 N. Stonebridge Dr., Ann Arbor
Light-filled, fully updated ranch in Stonebridge Golf community. Hardwood floors, great room with cathedral ceiling, skylights. Finished lower level, Trex deck, paver patio, landscaped. $639,000. Kim Peoples 734-646-4012. #3277969

403 Pineway Dr., Trailwoods Sub
Nearly new, move-in ready 5 bedroom, 3 bath in desirable neighborhood! Open plan, 2-story foyer, gorgeous kitchen, unbelievable primary suite. Trex deck, 2-car garage, beautiful landscaping. $679,900. Megan Mazurek 734-645-4296. #3277911

8950 Greenwood Rd, Grass Lake
Tastefully updated, classic farmhouse on 148 rolling acres with pond, creek and 4 barns in Grass Lake Schools. 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths. Newly remodeled in-law suite. Wrap-around porch. $795,000. Gregory Million 517-290-6730. #3271906

9989 Dexter Chelsea Rd, Lima Twp.
Completely updated 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath all-brick home on 13 acres. Over 4,800 livable sq. ft. including 1,300 sq. ft. bonus room. Attached 7-car garage, 4,600 sq. ft. outbuilding. $1,100,000. Brent Flewelling 734-646-4263. #3274692

8786 W Liberty Rd, Ann Arbor
30 Acre country estate in Ann Arbor, minutes to town offers privacy and serenity. Stunning 5,500 sq. ft. home. Plenty of room for animals. Professionally landscaped. Dexter schools. $1,449,900. Jeff Klink 734-260-7483. #3266930

1962 Boulder Dr., Ann Arbor
Desirable Huron Chase condo with 1st floor primary suite and den/study. Cathedral ceilings on 1st floor, dining room overlooks deck and mature landscaping. Finished lower level with 2 bedrooms. $640,000. Carolyn Lepard 734-417-2900. #3277535

1293 N. Portage Rd., Jackson
Private 3,448 sq. ft. plus finished walkout. New gourmet kitchen, roof, furnaces, A/C and more! Located on 5 acres with barn, pond, salt water in-ground pool, spa, covered patio. 3-car garage. $725,000. Kerene Morrissey 517-937-2257. #3277698

208 W William St, Downtown Ann Arbor
Fabulous end unit town-home backing to proposed Ann Arbor greenbelt park. 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, attached 2-car garage, Brazilian hardwood floors, many updates. Professionally landscaped. $875,000. Ed Ridha 734-645-3110. #3273332

8624 Fox Hill Ct, Dexter
Wow-factor included in this 5 bedroom, 4.5 bath on 4.64 acres. Finest finishes, walls of windows, open-concept, soaring ceilings, finished walkout. Outdoor oasis with pool, tennis court and more. $1,125,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3277061

4140 Miller Rd, Ann Arbor
Stately estate on 33.91 lush wooded acres surrounded by plants, wildlife, pond, horse barn with 6 stables and corral. 5,915 livable sq. ft., 5 bedrooms, 3 full, 2 half baths, chef's kitchen, more! $2,600,000. Cynthia Cecala-Smigielski 734-395-9679. #3252385

1805 Charlton Ave., Ann Arbor
Completely updated, home in charming Old West Side neighborhood is move-in ready! 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, open main level great for entertaining, gas fireplace. Finished lower level. $659,000. Clare Laughery 216-778-0111. #3277886

13591 Macon Rd, Saline
Stunning, custom log home on 35 wooded acres with in-ground pool, pasture, shed, outbuilding and more. Well maintained, chef's kitchen, wood floors, walkout lower level. Township taxes. $750,000. Tammi Ebenhoeh 734-276-4663. #3276111

5403 Waldenhill Ct, Glennborough
Striking, pristine home situated on a mature, private 1.12 acre site in Glennborough. So many luxury finishes including Chef's kitchen with SubZero refrigerator, Wolf range and much more! $935,000. Nancy Bishop 734-761-3040. #3270994

3212 W Dobson Pl, Northeast Ann Arbor
This stunning home in The Woodlands on a spectacular wooded lot bordering 20 acre university greenbelt. 4,200 sq. ft. plus a finished lower level. Magnificent views will take your breath away! $1,150,000. Matt Miller 734-476-4869. #3265530

423 Glazier Rd, Cavanaugh Lake
Beautiful home with 150 ft. of frontage on Cavanaugh Lake with guest house and pool! 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths built by Johnson Brothers. Pond with fountain and tennis court. $3,900,000. Elizabeth Brien 734-645-4444. #3267848

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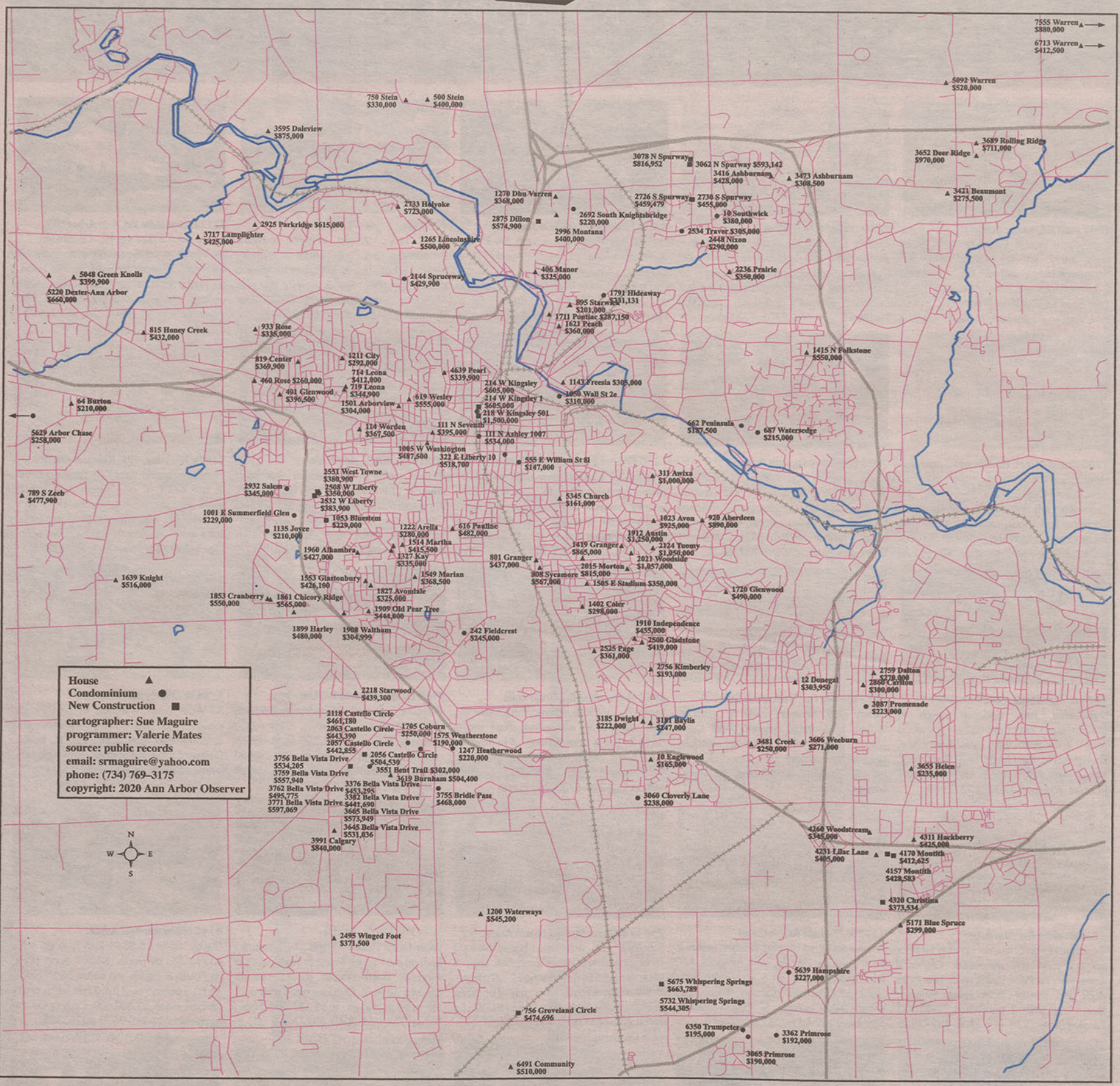
NOVEMBER 2020

HOME SALES



November put an exclamation mark on the recovery in real estate listings. During the coronavirus lockdown last spring, the number of people putting single-family homes on the market in the Ann Arbor School District fell 57 percent compared to the same period in 2019. But November saw 122 new single-family listings, according to the Ann Arbor Area Board of Realtors Multi-Listing Service, 67 percent more than November 2019. By mid-December, the single-family total for the year was just seventy-nine short of the 1,738 recorded in 2019—when "lockdown," "Covid-19," and "social distancing" were not even part of our vocabulary. MLS condominium listings had already matched 2019's total of 895.

November sales of both single-family homes and condominiums were up over November 2019: from seventy-six to 108 single-families and from thirty-six to forty-seven condos. Since sales numbers follow listings numbers, and listings were postponed a bit this year, year-to-date sales numbers were down about 7 percent, to 1,088, for single-family homes, and a bit more than 2 percent, to 615, for condos. Average prices were up a bit more than 3 percent for single-family houses, to $473,764, and down about 1.5 percent for condos, to $286,027.

Raising the condo average, 218 W. Kingsley #501 sold in November for $1.5 million. The 3,112-square-foot unit on the top floor of the Kingsley Condominiums offers sweeping views of downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. In addition to three bedrooms, two-and-a-half baths, and multiple decks, the new owner will enjoy two designated garage parking spots.

The lowest-priced home on the map is a 1,205-square-foot, two-bedroom, one-bath ranch at 5345 Church in Dixboro. Captain John Dix purchased his village site in 1824, the same year that John Allen and Elisha Rumsey founded Ann Arbor, but Dixboro never grew like its neighboring city. Though well-placed on the old Indian trail that became Plymouth Rd., it was bypassed when the railroad was built along the Huron River through Ypsilanti. Many today appreciate how that early loss helped to preserve the Superior Township hamlet's farming traditions and rural feeling. This home, built in 1953 on half an acre of land, netted $161,000—$11,000 over its asking price.

—Sue Maguire

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Back Page

i spy

by Sally Bjork

Springing into 2021

"People often say Ann Arborites have a big head," emails Dan Romanchik in response to December's feature. "Well, now we really do!"

"I spy the new UMMA 25-foot tall sculpture by Jaume Plensa, *Behind the Walls*, signifying deep reflection" says Cathy Strachan. "How appropriate …!" Janine Shahinian points out that the sculpture is not only "an expression of how we feel about 2020 but a commemoration of where we've spent most of it."

When Bob Williams first saw the giant head with hands covering its eyes, "I cried 'that must be every Ann Arborite's reaction to all the events this year!' " A. J. Kydd jokes that it "needs a mask."

Behind the Walls "made its debut at Rockefeller Center in 2019," writes Sonia Zawacki. The *New York Times* "called it the most Instagrammed and photographed work" at that festival, shares David Karl. It replaces the large red abstract sculpture "*Shang*, that was bought [by a private collector] in October after more than 10 years in that location," writes John McCauley. "I hadn't realized the previous sculpture was on loan until I read it was gone!" says Jason Kahn. "I will miss the Mark di Suvero sculpture," says Allison Smith, "but I definitely like the new one!"

We received a near-record sixty-nine entries in December. Our random drawing winner is Rae Ruskin, who will enjoy a $25 gift certificate to Zingerman's. To enter this month's contest, use the image and clue above and send your answer to the address below. And check out the first book-length I Spy collection, available now at AnnArborObserver.com/books.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

We received nearly 300 entries correctly identifying the Fake Ad for Corn/Meal on page 38 of the December issue.

"Sowback Road caught my attention," wrote Kathy Bonds. "Very funny play on Hogback. Also, the incorporation of the last winner in 'twang.' Very clever. By the way, my husband and I met through one of your personal ads in 1996. We were engaged in 4 months. Have now been together almost 25 years." Wonderful story, and one very familiar to the Fake Ad Czar: he and the Czarina met through an Observer personal ad in the 90s as well. But you'd know that if you'd read *The Fake Ad Book*. And if you haven't, you should order it now at AnnArborObserver.com/books.

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CORN/MEAL
2418 Sowback Road • Ann Arbor
Order online at www.corn/meal.com
"COMFORT FOOD WITH A SOUTHERN TWANG!"

The Fake Ad for a southern cookbook caught Timothy Cheek's eye, "because I had been craving okra and chicken fried steak! I was actually disappointed when the website didn't work. Once again, very clever."

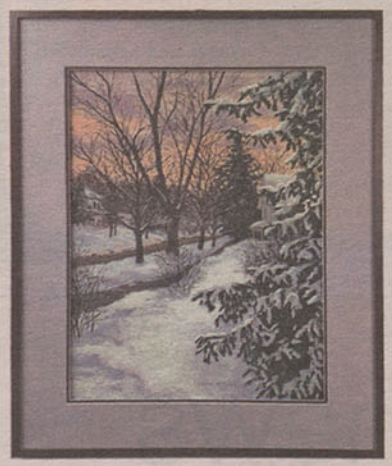
One Fake Adder entered with an ulterior motive. "I hope I win the drawing in part because I'd love the gift certificate, but mostly because I'd love to see you figure out how to get my name into a Fake Ad!" wrote Theresa Braunschneider. That would be a challenge, but we can tell you it would involve liverwurst, as all the best things in life do.

Speaking of challenging last names, this month's winner is Samantha Brdek. She's taking her gift certificate to TeaHaus.

Order* The Fake Ad *and* I Spy *books at AnnArborObserver.com/books.

To enter this month's contests, send email to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 2390 Winewood, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. All correct entries received by noon on January 11th will be eligible for our random drawings. Winners receive $25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.

Would you like to own an original, framed Observer cover?



Now you can!

Artist Laura Strowe has donated her pastel painting "Snow on Broadway" to benefit the Observer and the Ann Arbor Art Center. Matted and framed by Karie Wagner Coron of Format Framing, it's now on sale through an online silent auction.

The painting is on display in the window of the A2AC's Gallery Shop at 117 E. Liberty through January 15, 2021. The winning bid will be income-tax deductible, less the work's fair market value of $750 (minimum bid).

Check out the silent auction and bid—or, if you simply must have this peaceful winter scene, "Buy it Now" for $2,000.

Don't delay … bid high today!
32auctions.com/a2ac

Contact Meaghan at mclark@annarborartcenter.org.
The winner will be announced in the February Observer.

Thank you, Laura and Karie!

Ann Arbor Observer A2AC THE ANN ARBOR ART CENTER

THANKS!

We extend a sincere thank you to our new Observer friends!

We appreciate your financial support.

Thanks also to readers who responded to our request for **FREE** subscription confirmations.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our November drawing!

The following readers won a **$25 gift certificate** to their choice of any business advertising in the Observer.

November winners:
Alice M. and James K.

If you would like to be entered in the December drawing for a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue, check out the information on page 56, and submit your Observer Friend or Free Subscription confirmation by December 10.

Thanks!
Observer Staff

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Events at a Glance

Daily ***Events*** *listings begin on p.* ***30.*** ***Films:*** *p.* ***33.*** ***Galleries:*** *p.* ***32.*** ***Kids:*** *p.* ***34.***

➤Reviewed in this issue. See p. **31.**

All events are virtual unless otherwise noted.

Concert Music

classical, religious, cabaret

- Sheku and Isata Kanneh-Mason (UMS), Jan. 8–10
- "Wine, Women, and Song" (KCH), Jan. 30

Vernacular Music

pop, rock, jazz, & traditional

- Rufus Wainwright (singer-songwriter), Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29
- Jill Jack (folk-rock), Jan. 9
- Peter Madcat Ruth (harmonica), Jan. 9
- John Doe (singer-songwriter), Jan. 21
- Jaimie Branch (trumpeter), Jan. 22
- Aaron Jonah Lewis (multi-instrumentalist), Jan. 23

Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Proving Up* (U-M SMTD), Dec. 16–Jan. 16
- *The Tempest: Act 3* (CHS), Jan. 3
- *Some Old Black Man* (UMS), Jan. 15
- Short play readings (A2CT), Jan. 22
- Play reading (Penny Seats), Jan. 22

Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Bill Bushart (in-person), Jan. 2
- Comic Derek Richards (in-person), Jan. 8 & 9
- Comic Robert Jenkins (in-person), Jan. 15 & 16
- Comic Bob Phillips (in-person), Jan. 22 & 23
- Comic Andy Beningo (in-person), Jan. 29 & 30

Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- 44th Annual Folk Festival, Jan. 29 & 30

Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- "Jazz as a Tool for Liberation," every Wed.
- Multimedia artist Damon Locks, Jan. 10
- MLK Day talks and forums, Jan. 16–18 & 23
- Irish fiction writer Kevin Barry, Jan. 19
- Essayist and poet Hedy Habra, Jan. 27
- Fiction writer Valeria Luiselli, Jan. 28

Family & Kids' Stuff

See ***Kids 12 & Under,*** *p. 34, for most kids events.*

- Lantern-lit ski and snowshoe (in-person), every Fri.

Miscellaneous

➤Jewel Heart dharma talks, every Sun.

- Folk Festival viewing party (in-person), Jan. 29 & 30

"Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- "A Village … and Then Some" storytelling, Jan. 10

Memorials

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January issue Memorials, page 35

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